هكذا من الأصل

TENNIS 46

...hy county week still has plenty to offer

...ingers begin ...est for place ...nong the elite

THE TIMES

35p

No. 65,950 THURSDAY JULY 24 1997 http://www.the-times.co.uk

WHY CHARITY SHOPS ARE CHIC
PAGE 19

BEST FOR BOOKS
Ffion Jenkins on the wonders of Welsh
PLUS: Peter Ackroyd on Oscar Wilde
PAGES 36, 37

THE GOOD LIFE AFTER THE MENOPAUSE
Dr Thomas Stuttaford
PAGE 18

BEST FOR JOBS

- ☐ Executive 90K
- ☐ Manager 80K
- ☐ Analyst 40K
- ☐ Graduate 17K

30 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

Nationwide remains mutual society

Savers reject windfall of £2,000 each

By Caroline Merrell and Joanna Bale

SAVERS with the Nationwide, Britain's biggest building society, yesterday voted by a margin of nearly three to one to forgo a £2,000 windfall in order to retain the society's mutual status.

They rejected, by one million votes to 350,000, moves by five rebel candidates, led by the eccentric former royal butler Michael Hardern, to convert the society into a bank.

The outcome means that the Nationwide will not follow the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich on to the stockmarket, and will not bestow windfalls on its savers in the form of shares or cash. Instead the society claims it will underline the merits of remaining a mutual building society by offering cheaper loans and higher savers' rates than other banks and former building societies. Last year, the Nationwide handed back £200 million to savers in this way.

Nationwide directors expressed suprise at the overwhelming size of the vote against Mr Hardern and his fellow pro-conversion candidates. Charles Nunneley, Nationwide chairman, said: "The result is a very strong endorsement of strategy."

The high turnout of voters underlined the strength of feeling about the issue. Normally only 300,000 vote on the election of board members.

Nationwide

Nunneley: huge vote to keep mutual status

The victory was welcomed by other building societies and by the Government. The Prime Minister, speaking at Question Time, said: "I was delighted to see the result and I think the right decision was made."

Mr Hardern, said last night that he was considering mounting a legal challenge to set up another ballot. He is to consult fellow campaigners in his group, Members For Conversion, over whether to continue their fight.

On the roof terrace of his Soho flat in central London yesterday Mr Hardern, 40, accused the Nationwide of misrepresenting his views in a deliberate attempt to persuade savers to vote against conversion.

"The Nationwide black arts department spent £1 million of customers' money making sure they won," he said. "They sent letters out saying that I had changed my mind, so many of my supporters thought I had caved in."

He also claimed that the public had been influenced by staff at branches. "Staff warned voters about branch closures and told them to vote accordingly," he said.

However, Mr Nunneley denied that the vote had been rigged and said the voting pattern at branches and that through the post was similar.

Andrew Love, chairman of the All Party Building Societies Committee, is to press ahead with a meeting with Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury. Mr Love said the meeting will discuss ways to prevent a similar situation occurring again. Mr Hardern only needed 50 signatures from the Nationwide's 3.5 million members to make an assault on the board.

The remaining societies breathed a sigh of relief at the result. If Nationwide savers had voted in favour of conversion, then they would have found it difficult to remain mutual. David Anderson, Yorkshire Building Society chief executive, said: "The entire mutual movement can take this as a vote of confidence, a strong signal that our message is getting through, and a victory for common sense."

The vote has left the dissidents who include Julie Trewehella, a secretary, and Andrew Martin, a computer consultant, arguing among themselves. They claimed that Mr Hardern's eccentric behaviour had damaged their campaign.

"Michael was a loose cannon that shot us in the foot," said Mr Martin. "His U-turn destroyed our credibility and at that point people weren't able to trust us to carry out our mandate."

Commentary, page 27

MARTIN BEDDALL

Pro-bank campaigner Michael Hardern said at his London home that he may fight on

Students face £10,000 debt under Labour grant plans

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MOST students will leave university with debts of more than £10,000 as a result of the Government's announcement yesterday that it is to scrap maintenance grants and to introduce fees for full-time university courses.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the changes were necessary to provide more money for a university system that he described as being in crisis. But his announcement, overruling a key element of a review by Sir Ron Dearing published yesterday, provoked a furious reaction from Labour traditionalists.

Lord Glenamara, a former Labour Education Secretary, said he was ashamed of the proposals, which would act as a barrier to young working-class people. "I do not know whether I can remain in a party and support a Government prepared to do this to its own people," he added.

Left-wing MPs accused ministers of betraying the poor and of destroying a system from which they had themselves benefited. Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West, said: "How can they even contemplate kicking away the ladder of opportunity from so many students?"

Students have promised to fight to preserve free tuition, but university vice-chancellors welcomed the move as the only way to preserve the quality of higher education and to allow for expansion.

Mr Blunkett told MPs the Government was offering a new deal for higher education that would provide urgently needed funding while guaranteeing access for poor students. "Our preferred solution secures equity, access, quality and accountability," he said.

In *The Times* today Mr Blunkett says the Government will guarantee that the savings from abolishing grants are channeled into higher education. A White Paper in the autumn will address Sir Ron's recommendations to raise the standard of teaching.

Stephen Dorrell, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, accused the Government of "picking the pockets" of low-income students and their families.

Sir Ron, who recommends the retention of grants alongside annual fees of £1,000 to be paid by all students, refused to condemn the decision.

Details, analysis, pages 12, 13
David Blunkett, page 20
Leading article, page 21

"Get the champagne — Christopher's been sent down from university"

High street boom

High street sales hit a new high in June as consumers rushed to spend their windfall payouts .... Page 25

TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
DAVID BLUNKETT	20
ARTS	33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE	45
COURT & SOCIAL	22
SPORT	42-46, 48
BOOKS	36, 37
TRAVEL NEWS	40, 41

Buying The Times overseas: Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 100; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 16.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 550; Netherlands Fl 5.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 80; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 5.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

30

770140 046343

Hague clean-up brings ban on foreign funding

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A BAN on foreign donations and new disciplinary powers to expel or suspend MPs or councillors guilty of gross misconduct were promised by William Hague yesterday as part of the biggest shake-up in the Conservative Party for more than half a century.

The Tory leader preempted Labour plans to outlaw political donations from abroad as he acted to remove the taint of sleaze from his party and spoke of his desire to turn the Tories into a "fresh, open, outgoing and clean" organisation. All the big contributions, likely to be set at a ceiling of £5,000, will have to be declared and the donor named — again in line with Labour plans.

Last night, Tory sources said the ban on foreign donations would apply to any individual "who had no connections whatsoever with Britain." In theory individuals who are not entitled to vote in British elections (apart from Lords) would not be able to donate. But the position of companies is less clear. The sources emphasised that the detail would have to be worked out in consultation with lawyers but it is likely that companies with any British connection would still be able to donate.

In a radical reshaping of current structures, the three wings of the party, the National Union which runs the voluntary side, Central Office and the parliamentary party are to be brought together into a single organisation governed by a new constitution, which should be ready by April.

A new governing body similar to a board of directors will run the party, with a chairman appointed by the leader, and representatives from the constituencies, Parliament and professional bodies.

It will mean that the party machine is put under central control for the first time. There will be a national membership system to enable the party to keep in touch with its members and enable them to be consulted across a wide range of issues. "Our current organisation is not up to the job," Mr Hague said. Party members are to be given a say over policy and the election of leaders for the first time. Mr Hague intends to follow Tony Blair in putting the entire Conservative programme to the membership before the next election.

As expected he is to submit both himself and the outlines of his reforms to a a vote of the party in September.

Because the new membership system will not be in place by then, constituency associations will be responsible for distributing ballot papers to their known members and collecting them. The results will be declared at the party conference in October.

By announcing the ban on foreign donations — stopping people not entitled to vote in British elections from being in a position to have influence on its outcome — Mr Hague was acting before he was forced to do so by the Government. Claims that the party has been getting big sums from abroad

Continued on page 2, col 4

Matthew Parris, page 2
Leading article, page 21

Work on wreckage salvaged

By Mark Henderson

THE Government has agreed to lift its ban on salvage work on the wreck of the 18th-century packet ship *Hanover* after hearing that it is deteriorating rapidly.

Last week Tony Banks, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, stopped work on the wreck, which sank in 1763 with the loss of 60 lives off Cligga Head, near Perranporth in Cornwall.

The salvage company Hydrasalve UK Ltd obtained an emergency High Court injunction against the Ministry on Tuesday allowing divers to survey the damage.

The company's solicitor Patricia Francies said: "My clients have been labelled as treasure hunters, but they are professional salvors."

The work resumes today under two marine archaeologists appointed by the Government. A spokesman for the department said the order to protect the wreck had been issued because it had not obtained full details of its historical significance.

Another Holocaust bank list on way

From Peter Capella in Geneva and Stephen Farrell

ANOTHER list of about 20,000 dormant prewar accounts is to be published by the Swiss Bankers' Association in October, continuing what one Swiss newspaper yesterday dubbed "an historic striptease" to return the unclaimed assets of Holocaust victims.

The list of 1,872 non-Swiss names, published in *The Times* and other newspapers worldwide yesterday, as well as on the Internet, is the product of the banks' own search. A hotline set up to handle inquiries was besieged yesterday by Holocaust survivors and claimants.

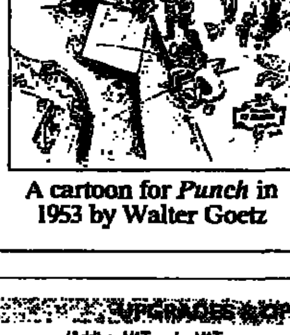
Greville Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust which pressed the banks to release details, said: "The telephone has not stopped ringing for a second ... it will create an appalling workload for the banks."

Among the Britons planning to apply is Fiona Goetz, widow of Walter Goetz, the *Punch* and *Daily Express* cartoonist and art collector, who died in 1995 aged 83.

Among the first list, nearly half of the account holders lived in France and Germany. Claimants have six months to come forward and are told to expect a response within six months.

New foreign names uncov ered within the next months will be added to October's list, which will mainly be composed of unclaimed deposits belonging to Swiss citizens. Bankers believe that some may have helped out friends or relatives unable to leave Nazi Germany and occupied Europe. "Although it could

Continued on page 2, col 5



A cartoon for *Punch* in 1953 by Walter Goetz

SAS Bosnia raid was called off

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

THE two Bosnian war criminal suspects that the SAS attempted to arrest on July 10 had been warned that they were wanted by an earlier British-led operation to seize them which was aborted at the last minute.

The Times has learnt that a snatch plan in March was cancelled because Nato and Britain's Conservative government did not want a shoot-out with armed Bosnian Serb bodyguards. Three days later John Major called a general election.

The operation was thrown into doubt because the Bosnian Serbs were able to intercept the telephone conversation of international war crimes investigators with the criminal tribunal in The Hague.

Three days of delays in authorising the operation also meant that the suspects knew that they were likely targets. They therefore had armed guards around them, giving the British no chance to pick them up.

Red-tape delay, page 15

Professional Edition includes: Excel '97, Word '97, Powerpoint, Access '97 and Outlook '97

200MHz Intel Pentium
Microsoft Office '97 Professional
and a whole lot more...
£999 ex VAT
£1173.83 inc VAT

Business Lease & Personal Finance available (Subject to status). Please call for details.

UPGRADES & OPTIONS

	(Add) ex VAT	inc VAT
To 4.0Gb HDD	£60.00	£70.55
To 5.0Gb HDD	£90.00	£105.75
To 15" ADI 4V FST Digital .28dp Monitor	£70.00	£82.25
To 17" ADI 5V .28dp Monitor	£250.00	£293.75
To 21" ADI 6G Monitor	£750.00	£881.25
For Prices of other ADI Monitors CALL		
AIWA SC-C57 80w (PMPO) Speakers	£30.00	£35.25
Altec Lansing Speakers with Sub Woofer System	£49.00	£57.58
33.6 BABT Int. Fax/Data/Voice + 30 Days FREE Internet	£49.00	£57.58
Minerva CD Lifestyle Pack 6 CDs - 35 Titles	£39.00	£45.83
Ricoh RDC 2E Digital Camera	£449.00	£581.42
Ricoh RDC 2L	£675.00	£793.13
Call for other Digital Camera and Printer Options		

- 200MHz Intel Pentium P200 Processor with MMX™ Technology
- High Performance Motherboard
- 512k Pipeline Burst Mode Cache
- 3.0Gb High Performance IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- Expert Colour S3 Virge 2D 4Mb Graphics card
- Maple 14" .28dp NI SVGA Colour Monitor
- 16 Speed IDE CD-ROM Drive
- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vibra C Soundcard
- IBM Voice Recognition Software with Microphone
- Microsoft Windows '95 (inc. CD) Keyboard/Mouse/Mousemat
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD
- Choice of Desktop, Mini or Midi Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

Maple Computer Corporation (UK) Limited, Ardent House, Gates Way, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 3HG.

LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am-6.30pm E-Mail sales@maplecorp.co.uk

GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND MAJOR CORPORATE PURCHASE ORDERS WELCOME

MAPLE Computer Corporation

Visit us on the Internet at http://www.maplecorp.co.uk/

TELEPHONE: 01438-72-62-62
FAX: 01438 35-71-00

Unionists reject plan for IRA weapons

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

ULSTER Unionists threw the peace process into disarray last night by voting down the Anglo-Irish plan for IRA disarmament. London and Dublin immediately announced that full-scale peace negotiations to develop a new political settlement for Northern Ireland would begin as scheduled on September 15. "We will hold to that and will take all necessary steps to ensure it happens," they said in a joint statement.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, will meet next Tuesday to disscuss ways to overcome the impasse over decommissioning, and will continue talking to all the parties.

Dr Mowlam praised the Ulster Unionist Party for staying in the talks even though it voted against the disarmament plan. "We want these negotiations to be as inclusive as possible," she said.

However, Dr Mowlam condemned Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party for their decision to quit the peace process. That was, she said, no way to represent their electorates and they should stand and argue their case.

The peace process now enters uncharted territory, with the two governments evidently hoping that the political climate will change over the next few weeks. They will swiftly establish an international body to oversee terrorist disarmament. The IRA ceasefire will have more time to take root. UUP leaders plan to consult widely over the summer and could find greater-than-expected support for negotiating with Sinn Fein.

The Unionist parties voted down the disarmament plan because it contained no cast-iron guarantee that IRA disarmament would occur during the peace negotiations. Dr Mowlam insisted the governments were more serious than the Unionists about securing disarmament because the plan, which envisaged disarmament taking place as trust developed, was the only realistic way of achieving it.

One possible solution if the impasse cannot be broken by September 15 is that the governments will embark on "proximity talks", whereby they would act as intermediaries between the UUP and Sinn Fein. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, announced his party was quitting the peace process after helping to defeat the governments' "blueprint for surrender to the IRA" because there was "nothing in this process for the Union or its people".

David Trimble, the UUP leader, has bought time by promising to continue the search for a resolution, but his position is politically precarious. He does not want to appear an enemy of peace, but risks getting too far ahead of Unionist opinion.

Mr Paisley last night demanded the UUP follow his own party's example and abandon the peace process.

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, said the defeat of the governments' plan was a major setback, but added: "All major setbacks can be followed by major breakthroughs if the will is there."

Mowlam: condemned Paisley's stance

William Hague makes his address. Spin doctors spoke of him "looking serious but with a smile playing around his mouth and eyes"

Big Chief Bald Eagle loses to the sheriff

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

TOURISTS in the new towns of the American Midwest used to witness a touching sight: Red Indian chiefs, wandering the sidewalks in their feathers, unrevered in an alien world. Down on the Reservation they were masters of all they surveyed. But here feathers drooped and bearing faltered. The contrast between scenes was poignant.

Journalists yesterday witnessed both. We saw Big Chief Bald Eagle, the young warrior recently annointed leader of the Tory tribe, down on the Reservation at Smith Square, spiritual homeland of his people. Here a tent filled with warriors and elders was held spellbound, the womenfolk ululating, the senior members of the tribe growling "*kyah-ya-ya-yah*" in the traditional manner.

And we saw him in the big new settlement of the Palefaces, known as Fort Blair or "the Houses of Parliament": lands seized from his tribe, where his writ no longer runs. He tried to speak; he made a powerful case; but Sheriff Blair kicked dust in his face, the Palefaces laughed, and few of the journalists bothered to write any of it down. His tribesmen, gathered behind, raised a plucky whoop, but they were hopelessly outnumbered. At Central Office William Hague had made a substantial speech outlining his plans for a reorganisation of the Tribe. He argued these with intelligence and conviction.

The spin doctors' press release accompanying Hague's new photo-portrait promises a man "looking serious but with a smile playing around his mouth and eyes". Wondering where else a smile might play, we heard some commonsense delivered with humour in that pleasant but determined tone which is becoming his hallmark.

Hague's call for openness, intellectual freedom and a "welcome for diversity" struck notes unfamiliar in Tory wigwams, but was well-received. With a diplomacy which did him credit, Mr Hague told his party they were nearly all much too old, Crutches banged against zimmer-frames in approval.

Tories *must* start to listen, he said. *He* would. He would be listening all summer long. Members, too, must listen. Listen at work, listen at play, listen at home, listen on land and at sea, listen down the pit and in the leafy lanes. The rhetoric began to go rather to his head. The list of places where Tories must listen lengthened. A nightmare vision grew of a Britain in which wherever we go we find Tories — in the hedgerow, behind the soft-toiletries or under the bed — listening.

After a standing ovation, the new party chairman thanked him. Lord Parkinson is looking quite rejuvenated now he is in charge. He moves his silver-coiffed head with the sort of jerky motion we used to observe in *Thunderbirds* puppets, and looks rather like Parker the chauffeur — young Hague his Lady Penelope. Both chiefs were cheered a second time.

So it was sad to see Bald Eagle in the Commons chamber. Here he wanted to know why the Prime Minister had said last week that a Welsh Assembly would control the police, and this week that it would not. Sheriff Blair speak with forked tongue, and four times failed to answer Hague's question — but nobody seemed to notice.

Then Barry Jones (Lab, Alyn & Deeside) asked for an assurance on the Future Large Aircraft, and received one on Airbus — but nobody seemed to notice. This Commons is becoming an Orwellian world in which answers do not relate to questions, but nobody says so, and everyone wonders whether he is mad, or everyone else is. A smile played around Tony Blair's lips, but not his eyes.

Hague plans party shake-up

Continued from page 1

have been rife for years. Before the election it was revealed that the party had received large donations from wealthy businessmen in Hong Kong, including one who gave £500,000, and in the past it was embroiled in controversy over accepting £440,000 from Asil Nadir, the the Cypriot businessman who fled Britain after his Polly Peck group failed. Mr Hague said the party must be more open about its funds. "In not being so in the past, we have often appeared secretive and defensive, and we have paid a political price for that."

He announced the establishment of a new internal disiciplinary committee, with powers to suspend individuals, councillors or even MPs "or anyone else who through gross misconduct bring scorn on the whole of our party."

He said the rules would be drafted so as not to undermine the role of constituencies to select their own candidates "in all normal circumstances" but the aim is clearly to avoid a repeat of the sitution before the election where the national leadershiop wanted Neil Hamilton to stand down and his local party refused.

Although some of the reforms will be controversial locally, and there were signs of concern about deterring would-be donors, Mr Hague will get his way on his broad plans. He suggested the ballot next month would be an opportunity to "back me or sack me".

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Railtrack attacked over cash

Rail campaigners and crash victims are threatening to disrupt the formality of Railtrack's annual general meeting today by pleading for compensation running into millions. Passengers and other casualties who suffered physical, financial and psychological problems after accidents plan to descend on the London meeting to confront the Railtrack board.

Nearly 100 people were injured and two killed in three accidents within a year. Railtrack said the process for claiming compensation was not the company's responsibility, and insisted it had no liability in accidents at Stafford and Watford.

Blair tells rebels not to go public

Tony Blair warned Labour backbenchers not to use the media if they disagreed with him on policy or party reform. His end-of-term address to MPs stressed the importance of party discipline in winning a second term. Differences of opinion must be expressed in a way "that does credit rather than harm to the party and in no way jeopardises our electoral prospects".

Scots face 'loss of world news'

Television viewers in Scotland may be deprived of important international news stories if a "Tartan" News at Ten is given the go-ahead, the head of ITN warned yesterday. Richard Tait, ITN's editor-in-chief, said there was a danger that much international coverage might have to be sacrificed to facilitate a Scottish version of Britain's most popular news programme.

Fourth jail for Isle of Wight

A fourth jail is planned for the Isle of Wight as the Prison Service faces an inmate population estimated to rise from the current 62,000 to 70,000 by next spring. The service yesterday unveiled proposals to erect prefabricated wooden huts for 400 inmates on farmland near Parkhurst jail near Newport. Eight separate blocks would each contain 52 low-risk inmates.

Blair breaks tradition

Tony Blair is to defy a long-standing convention by campaigning in Uxbridge on Friday for the forthcoming by-election. Mr Blair will be the first Prime Minister who has visited a by-election campaign for more than 18 years. The unspoken understanding is that the Prime Minister would be more directly blamed if his or her candidate failed to win. The vote is on July 31.

BSE cases fall by 70% in two years

The number of cattle dying of "mad cow" disease has fallen by 70 per cent over the past two years, reinforcing forecasts that it will peter out around the turn of the century. In the first six months of this year, there were 1,716 cases of BSE, 56 per cent fewer than in the same period of 1996 and 70 per cent down on the first half of 1995, Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said.

BT chocolates man loses case

A BT executive who was accused of harassment after he gave a box of chocolates to a woman colleague lost his sex discrimination claim. Tony Manning, 37, of Great Blakenham near Ipswich, Suffolk, was transferred to another BT job. An industrial tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, ruled that BT had no case to answer and dismissed his case.

www.bt.com

BT's ISDN lines can send a document to your customers' computers in seconds, so there's no more broken promises.

Why not change the way we work?

BT

To connect for only £20 more than a normal BT phone line

Free*fone 0800* 800 800

OFFER ENDS 12.10.97 ON LINES INSTALLED BY 9.11.97. FOR EXAMPLE, CONNECTION TO BT'S ISDN START-UP PACKAGE COSTS JUST £119.00 (EX VAT). INCLUSIVE CALL ALLOWANCE OF £105 PA. MINIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD 2 YEARS. QUARTERLY LINE RENTAL £133.75 (EX VAT).

Rights for part-time workers endorsed

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

THE EU law giving up to six million British part-time workers the same rights to sick leave and paid holidays as their full-time colleagues was endorsed yesterday by the Brussels Commission.

The draft directive, which will go to EU ministers for final approval in the autumn, is being enacted under the Social Chapter, the framework for employment law that the Government agreed to join last month.

Under a House of Lords ruling in 1994, British part-time workers are guaranteed the same rights over unfair dismissal and redundancy as full-timers, but an estimated 60 per cent do not enjoy paid sick leave, holiday pay, occupational pensions, share options and other benefits. One in three employees will be working part time by 2001, according to Government estimates.

The TUC says that the cost will amount to 0.5 per cent of the total pay bill.

A British official yesterday welcomed the new draft law but said that it would have a very small impact in Britain where part-time workers already had statutory rights.

Taxpayer faces bill in Danish bank fraud case

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A MARATHON civil fraud case ended yesterday in a £90 million High Court victory for a Danish bank and the prospect of a multimillion pound bill for the British taxpayer in legal aid costs.

The question of who pays legal fees run up in the action brought by Jyske Bank, the fourth largest bank in Denmark, against 32 corporate and individual defendants has yet to be decided, and lawyers' bills have not been assessed.

Seven people were granted legal aid for their defence. Anyone bringing or defending legal proceedings in the English courts can obtain legal aid provided that they meet criteria on income and assets and the "merits" test which looks at the case itself.

One defendant granted legal aid was Jan Henning Spjeldnaes, former managing director of the bank's Gibraltar subsidiary, who was yesterday found to have defrauded it of £56.23 million, of which £46 million remains unrecovered. When interest is added, his final liability to the bank is likely to be at least £90 million.

Another was Michael Metcalf, an accessory to the fraud, whose share of joint liability with Mr Spjeldnaes is expected to run to £82 million when final judgment is given later this year.

In a summary after an 87-day hearing spread over more than a year, Mr Justice Evans-Lombe said that in a period of two years from February 1989 Jyske Bank (Gibraltar) Ltd was procured to enter into 16 transactions, all but one of which were loans to corporate borrowers in which Mr Spjeldnaes had a personal interest. Most of the money was used for property development in Spain, the North of England and Eire, and trading operations in Africa.

One of Mr Spjeldnaes's principal associates, Rolf Jacobsen, had not contested the case. The remainder of the hearing was concerned with whether the bank could establish a case against Pablo Zoltan-Frank, another associate of Mr Spjeldnaes; Julia Gould, wife of Mr Metcalf, and Wolfgang Heinl, an Ireland-based commercial agent alleged to have assisted in the dispersal of the bank's money. The judge found the allegations were made out against Mr Jacobsen (£5.1 million plus interest) and Mr Heinl (£4.5 million plus interest).

Swiss bank chief tells of shame

Continued from page 1

be argued that these extraordinary measures should have been taken earlier, it's important to keep in mind that no country has laws that oblige banks to actively search for the owners of dormant accounts," said Georg Krayer, chairman of the Swiss Bankers' Association.

He admitted, however, that he was ashamed when he saw that some of the names of groups or companies could easily have been traced. The listed accounts are worth SFr60.2 million (£24.3 million), 50 per cent more than previously admitted. Most of this change was down to the Swiss Bank Corporation, which revised the value of unclaimed deposits in its vaults from SFr11.4 million (£4.6 million) to SFr27.4 million (£11 million).

The corporation said that it had discovered errors made when it introduced computer systems in the 1970s.

Government officials have been pushing for the publication of the lists for months but faced strong resistance from some bankers, who were anxious to guard their reputation for secrecy.

Mrs Goetz discovered yesterday that not only was "Goetz, Walter, London GB" — her late husband — on the list but so were her late husband's parents, Alfred and Berthe Goetz.

She said: "My mother-in-law died only two or three years after we married, and never mentioned a thing. This is something that should have been dealt with long ago, when it would have affected people very much more."

Greville Janner urged the Swiss to speed the process of checking claims. "Never in the history of banking has so much been owed by so few to so many. It is billions. The Swiss say it will take a year. I do not accept that."

The Internet address is: http://www.dormantaccounts.ch

Goetz: his name appears on list

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Hamas attack will not ruin our trip, say Britons

Christopher Walker in Jerusalem finds teenagers determined to go on

SHAKEN, shocked and blooded in the type of horrific terrorist incident to which Israelis have become all too accustomed, 41 British Jewish teenagers vowed yesterday to continue their month-long educational tour which began with a ruthless attack on the streets of Old Jaffa.

Graham Kogan, 16, from the London suburb of Redbridge, described the sheer terror as the group was picked as a target by an Israeli Arab supporter of Hamas who first drove his red Mitsubishi straight at them at 80mph and then lashed out left and right at those knocked to the floor with a samurai sword and commando knife.

"For the rest of my life I shall never forget the moment that the attacker came straight towards us swinging the sword. For some reason I do not understand, something made be go towards him, but luckily he was wrestled to the ground and I was not hurt," said Graham, speaking at the Tel Aviv hostel where the British party was visited by psychologists organised by The Jewish Agency.

Ten of the British teenagers were lightly wounded in the attack, but all the young men and women from London and Manchester will carry the emotional scars of the first night out in Israel of the "Federation of Zionist Youth Group Number 4" which had landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport only hours before.

"The attacker was shouting in Arabic but I could not understand what he was saying. It was too frightening to think too clearly," Graham said. "All I know that anyone who would deliberately accelerate his car into a crowd of innocent teenagers has to be mad to some degree."

Like the other members of the group, which the Israeli authorities hope includes British Jews willing to emigrate to Israel permanently, Graham Kogan, who has just completed GCSEs, was able to speak to his parents at a special incident room established by the Jewish Agency.

"They were terrific. They told me I could make up my own mind whether to go ahead," he added. He said that in the immediate aftermath of the attack, there were those anxious to go straight home, but the mood had changed by yesterday morning, when the whole party left for the Red Sea resort of Eilat by coach.

"I have learnt a great deal in the past 24 hours. You read that things like this can happen in Israel, but it is just so different, so terrifying, when you are in the middle of an attack where somebody seems out to kill you and all of those with you," he said.

Nader Abu Rabieh under guard in hospital yesterday

Under police interrogation yesterday the attacker, Nazareth-born Nader Abu Rabieh, aged in his early thirties, admitted that the car, sword and knife attack on the British group and some Canadians sitting in a nearby restaurant had been launched for "nationalistic reasons". Abu Rabieh, reported to have connections with Hamas, said he had been angered by recent Jewish posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. Western intelligence experts expect the posters, drawn by a Jewish extremist from the former Soviet Union now undergoing physchiatric tests, could provoke many more random attacks like that in Old Jaffa. Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad have vowed revenge for the posters which depict the pig stomping on the Koran and in the Islamic world, there have been angry demonstrations as far afield as Iran and Bangladesh.

Jonathan Landsman, 21, from Northwood in north London, the British organiser of the group, praised the courage of the teenagers as the attacker flailed his sword having shouted the Muslim war cry *Allah Akbar* (God is Great) as he jumped from his wrecked car. He had just left the Mahmoudiya mosque when the attack was launched just after 9pm.

"The whole thing happened so quickly it was difficult for me to have any immediate thoughts beyond looking after my kids, especially those who were injured," Mr Landsman said. "The car just drove straight into them and many were left lying on the ground screaming. Then the driver went on the attack with some sort of sword that he was swinging about."

The attacker was last night in an Israeli hospital suffering from a ruptured spleen after being wrestled to the ground by an off duty policeman and hit with a metal pipe by the owner of nearby kiosk.

HAVAKUK LEVISON

Jennifer Martin, one of the British teenagers, in a Tel Aviv youth hostel yesterday

Death-pact survivor can keep her lover's £50,000

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A WOMAN who survived a suicide pact made with her lover won a £50,000 payout from his estate yesterday. In the first case of its kind, the Court of Appeal ruled that Nanette Plant was more deserving of sympathy than punishment, although guilty of "criminal complicity" in the suicide of Tony Dunbar.

By two to one, the judges agreed to waive the normal rule that forbids criminals from benefiting from their own wrong-doing and upheld Miss Plant's right to the full value of the couple's former home and a payout under his life assurance, together totalling about £50,000.

Mr Dunbar's father John, of Sale, Cheshire, had said that she should not have a penny as she had aided and abetted his son's suicide. Under the Suicide Act 1961 suicide is not a crime, but it is an offence to aid, abet, counsel or procur the suicide of another.

Giving guidance for future cases, Lord Justice Phillips said the survivor of a suicide pact would "normally attract sympathy rather than prosecution". Miss Plant and Mr Dunbar fell in love in 1987, and bought a home in Preston, Lancashire. They got engaged at Christmas 1989, but in January 1991 Miss Plant fell under suspicion of false accounting in her job as administration controller at Blackpool's Savoy Hotel. Fearing she would soon be arrested, she told her lover that she intended to take her own life. Mr Dunbar, 24, could not face life without her. The couple first tried to gas themselves in their car before deciding to hang themselves from the rafters in their attic.

Miss Plant's noose came loose and she survived. She said she tried to finish her life by cutting her throat and wrists with a kitchen knife and jumping from a bedroom window, but again survived.

Miss Plant, who now lives in Bexhill, Sussex, was later convicted of false accounting and, on May 8 1992, was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence. Lord Justice Phillips said that although she had been guilty of a criminal offence in the suicide, her "degree of culpability" had been so low that strict enforcement of the terms of the Forfeiture Act would not be in the public interest. In a pact "the survivor will normally attract sympathy rather than prosecution".

Boy saves father after adder bite

By A Staff Reporter

A SCHOOLBOY was praised yesterday for saving his father's life after he was bitten by an adder during a sailing holiday. Joe Palmer, 12, called the emergency services on a mobile telephone after his father collapsed with breathing difficulties, and guided a lifeboat to their yacht.

A severe reaction to the snake poison made Ian Palmer's throat begin to close and he lapsed in and out of consciousness. But thanks to his son's prompt call a lifeboat and rescue helicopter arrived within minutes, and Mr Palmer was flown to hospital.

He was in intensive care yesterday but his condition was said to be improving after treatment with venom antidote.

Mr Palmer, 34, and his son had noticed the adder asleep in their path as they walked beside the River Crouch in Essex. Mr Palmer bent to move it, and was bitten twice on the finger and thumb. They returned to their yacht and set sail to seek help in Burnham, four miles away, but Mr Palmer quickly started to vomit and to lose consciousness.

Adder: summer hazard

Joe, from Charlton, south-east London, said: "Dad immediately sucked out the poison and spat it away. His lips and throat began to swell up and his hand was the size of a balloon. When we finally got to the boat he collapsed."

A Thames coastguard spokesman said: "The boy was extremely sensible and helped to save his father. He stayed calm throughout and assisted the lifeboat crew when they arrived. He knew he had to keep his father's airway open because his throat was closing quickly."

Son fixated on models hit parents

By A Staff Reporter

A YOUTH aged 18 was so obsessed with the models Claudia Schiffer and Eva Herzegova that he attacked his parents when they suggested his interest had got out of hand.

Philip Wright, who changed his name to Herzegova-Schiffer, was given a 12-month suspended sentence by magistrates at Newquay, Cornwall, after he admitted causing actual bodily harm and criminal damage. Grace Wright, his mother, was forced to flee the family home in St Columb Minor, Cornwall, after her son began punching her when she got some questions about Miss Schiffer wrong.

Wright later had an argument with his father, Brian, when he announced he was changing his name by deed poll. He punched his father in the head, threw him on to a sofa and bit him on his ear. He then threatened to kill him with a knife and kicked in the family's video.

Mr Wright said after the case that his son had learnt his lesson and that he had bought his parents a "sorry" card.

Winner turns down world

A CARETAKER was told the world was his oyster when he won a £10,000 holiday prize. But instead of the Bahamas, Bali or the Barrier Reef, Dennis Isaacs picked the Highlands, Guernsey and Bournemouth.

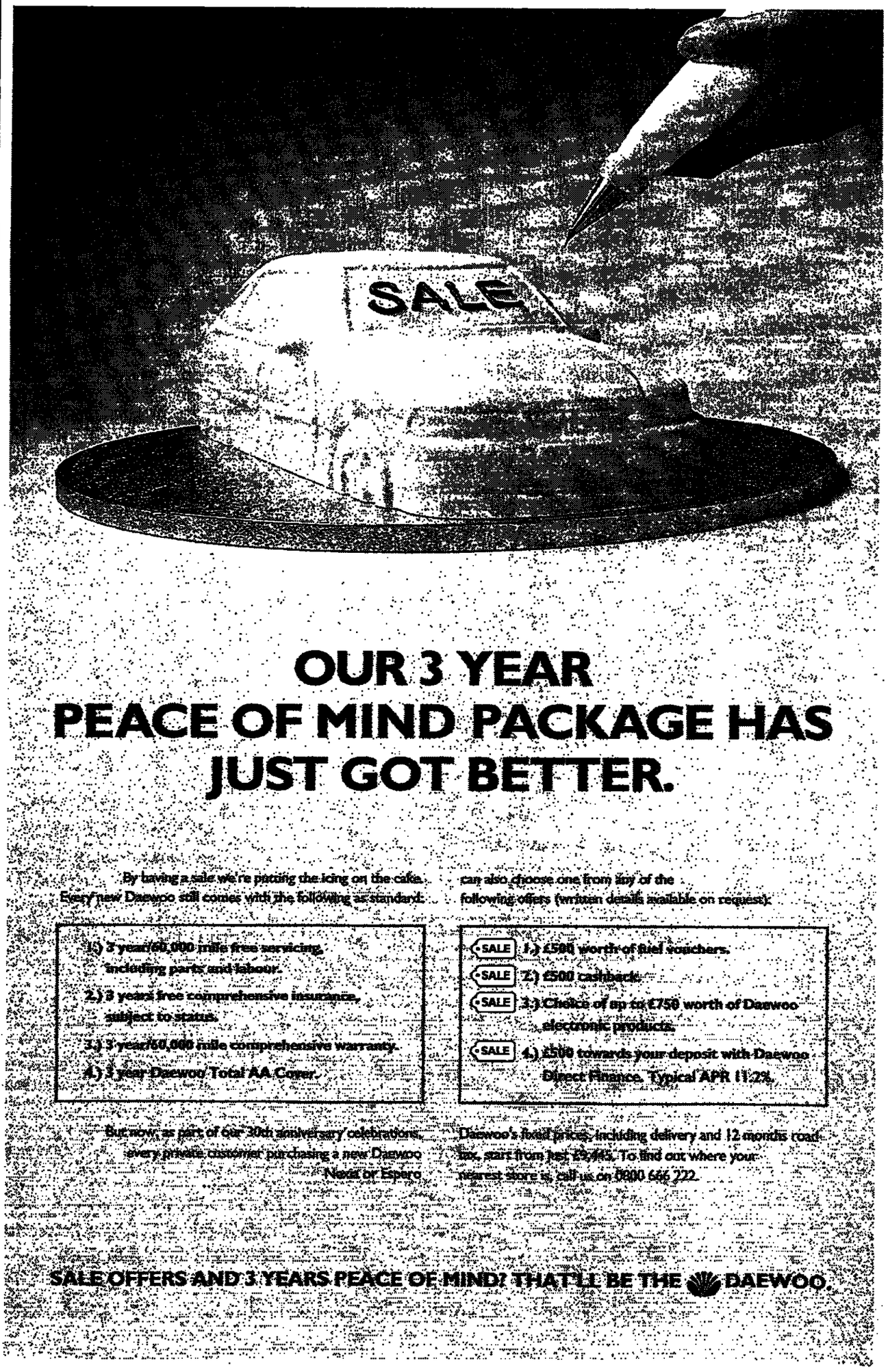
Last night, as the British tourist industry celebrated a new hero, Mr Isaacs, 71, from King's Lynn, Norfolk, said: "I prefer not to get into the hassle of travelling abroad."

He was given £10,000 to holiday anywhere in the world by Barclays Bank, after entering a competition when he took out a car loan. Winners invariably choose to go abroad. Mr Isaacs, whose wife Kathleen is 80, has never been further afield than France and does not plan to change now.

"A holiday is all about relaxing," he said. "We're going on a coach tour of the Highlands because I can see the sights without driving. I like the look of Guernsey. And we've been to Bournemouth before and we've chosen there because I can go fishing. There's an awful lot of Britain I haven't seen."

Bournemouth's public relations officer, Liz Micklethwaite, said: "Sensible man. There is virtually everything in Bournemouth."

At the British Tourist Authority, a spokesman praised Mr Isaacs' rejection of more exotic destinations: "He will find everything here. We have got everything they have got, without the volcanoes and the earthquakes."



ARM YOURSELF WITH THE FACTS IF YOU WANT A GREAT PENSION

OFT urges radical pensions overhaul

By Sara McConnell

THE Office of Fair Trading called for a radical overhaul of pension provision in Britain yesterday, condemning the present system as expensive and inadequate.

Publishing the findings of a ten-month inquiry, John

equal annuity rates for men and women and removal of the penalties levied by some providers on people who take their pension funds elsewhere to get a better annuity rate.

But it held back from recommending that people be com-

The Times 16th July 1997

Have you read all the hype about pensions following the Office of Fair Trading's report? Would you prefer some simple facts?

After all, if you want to buy a pension now, you have to choose from what is available today - not what might be available in the future. Nor should you think that delay is an option. Remember that every five years you put off starting contributions could cut your pension in half.

Good value and flexibility are available already - if you know where to look.

As The Times' City Editor, commenting on the Director General of Fair Trading's approach in the report, wrote in the newspaper on 16th July 1997, "Now, when faced with high charges by pension providers, he reckons competition will sort this out. But there are nearly 200 life companies and if the market was so efficient everyone would have a pension with Equitable Life."

Of course, current plans, working practices and legislation don't match the OFT's ideal pension. Some pensions though, are more ideal than others.

So, how does an Equitable pension measure up to the OFT recommendations?

The table opposite gives all nine features asked for by the OFT - in full and in their own words. By each is our response.

OFT RECOMMENDATION	THE EQUITABLE'S POSITION
1. Passive fund management Tracker funds offer better and cheaper financial performance...	We offer a tracker fund - and 15 other funds at the same price.
2. Systematic reduction of investment risk.	You have a choice of a range of funds to manage your investment risk as you approach retirement, or you can leave the investment management to us with our market-leading with-profits fund.
3. An annuity purchased on the open market without penalty.	You can use your Equitable fund to purchase an annuity from the provider of your choice; without penalty.
4. An annuity which is fully index linked.	You can choose a fully index linked annuity with the Equitable if you wish.
5. Equal annuity rates for men and women.	No - not generally available at present.
6. Expenses as a fixed proportion of fund value with no hidden element.	Yes. If you have a pension plan for just one year, you only get charged for one year. A new job is, therefore, a new opportunity not a pension problem.
7. A suitable structure to allow economies of scale.	Our mutual status means we do business at cost. There are no shareholders to take a slice of the profits. And our no commission stance brings further savings. In fact The Equitable has the lowest ratio of expenses to premium income of all life companies in the UK.**
8. An entitlement for an employee, on becoming eligible to join an occupational scheme, to receive in lieu a contribution from the employer.	An Equitable personal pension can already accommodate voluntary contributions from employers. Compulsory contributions would require government legislation.
9. Unbiased and objective recommendations on the level of contribution needed for consumers of different ages and with different levels of accumulated savings.	Just ask us and we'll give you the advice you need.

After reading them take a look at some other advertisements and judge for yourself which company gives you straight talking.

Perhaps that's why independent surveys, using a rating method recommended by the OFT, placed The Equitable's regular contribution plan at the top for both low charges and high performance.*

And one final note. There have been changes and improvements to our pension over the years but fundamentally it is the same plan we introduced in 1956 - the first year they were allowed by law. Funny old world.

If you would like some plain facts about our personal pension plan by post and by telephone call 0990 38 48 58. Alternatively complete and return the coupon.

INFORMATION/ADVICE WILL ONLY BE GIVEN ON EQUITABLE GROUP PRODUCTS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR.

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans.
I am self employed ☐
I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐

TMCW7A

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
_____
_____ Postcode _____
Tel: (Office) _____
Tel: (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____

* The Independent October 1996
** Planned Savings October 1996

We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box ☐

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

British climbers fall to deaths in French Alps

Pair had stopped to take photos on high ridge, report Susan Bell and Adrian Lee

TWO British climbers fell 3,000 ft to their deaths while posing for photographs on a ridge on Mont Blanc in the French Alps. Clare Kempster, 31, apparently lost her footing when she made a lunge for her rucksack and dragged her companion, Mark Haseler, 39, from West Dulwich, south London, into a ravine.

A third climber on the expedition had unroped himself to take the pictures on a section of the mountain called the Aiguille de Bionassey, and saw them fall.

French police said that Miss Kempster's rucksack slipped from the ledge. Marc Dubrulle, of the Chamonix mountain police, said: "They reached a ridge, with Italy on one side and France on the other, where there is a very beautiful view, and they apparently decided to get a photograph of themselves with the view in the background.

"One of them released himself from the rope, and the other two stepped back for the photo. At this point, the woman lost her rucksack, and it started sliding down the slope. She tried to catch it and fell, pulling the other climber, who was still roped to her.

"It was a foolish action to try to catch the rucksack in a position like that. The mountain is dangerous, but that spot is not particularly perilous, and one would think it is better to lose the rucksack."

The bodies of the victims were recovered by helicopter on the Italian side of the mountain. The alarm was raised by the surviving climber and an investigation begun by Italian authorities in Aosta. The climbers had spent Monday night in a hut just above 10,000 ft. They set off at first light on Tuesday to the summit of the 15,771 ft peak. The accident happened at 7am.

Mr Haseler lived for climbing, his family said yesterday. "It was his abiding passion," his brother, Tony, 51, of Croydon, south London, said. "I would describe him as a keen amateur but he was very cautious and did not take risks."

Mr Haseler, a former pupil of John Ruskin School, Croydon, worked at St George's Hospital, Tooting, south London, as a computer programmer. His parents, Ernest and Marjorie, were making arrangements for his body to be flown home.

The expedition had been organised by a club, in Ealing, west London, called Rockhoppers. Eileen O'Sullivan, a friend of Miss Kempster, said she was one of the best climbers in the club. "Most of the men looked up to her because she was so good."

The ascent of Mont Blanc is rated easy and is made by up to 100 climbers a day in summer. A spokesman for the British Mountaineering Council said: "Technically it is a high-altitude walk. It would be suitable for a beginner climbing with someone with some Alpine experience.

"But if someone falls unexpectedly there is often not a lot you can do even if you are roped together."

On average, one climber a week dies in the French Alps. This year there have been fewer fatalities than usual because bad weather has kept many people off the mountain.

Mark Haseler, who died with Clare Kempster

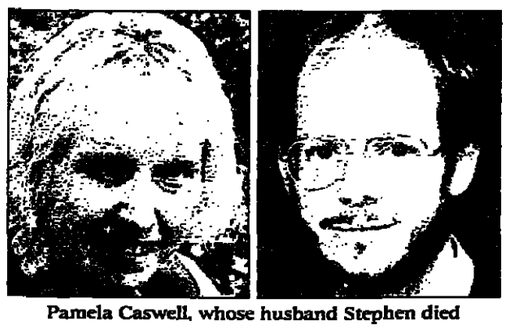
Widow of man killed on Mont Blanc tackles Andes

A WOMAN who survived a climbing accident that killed her husband is to tackle two of the world's most awesome mountains. Pamela Caswell, 43, survived 36 hours in a freezing ravine on Mont Blanc in 1994, after a 200ft fall in which her husband, Stephen, died.

She and her son Simon, 16, had used Mr Caswell's jacket to keep warm as they lay next to his body, waiting for an Italian rescue team. Mrs Caswell was six weeks pregnant with another son, now aged two. While she is away in the Andes, relations will look after Stephen, named after his father, a geology professor.

Mrs Caswell, a Plymouth teacher, will leave Britain tomorrow as the only woman on an eight-strong expedition. They plan to climb in the Cordillera Central range and hope to become the first British team to conquer one of the peaks that reaches 5,897 metres and the second to scale another peak of 5,730 metre.

Only one British expedition has been to the area, in 1958, and much of the range is unclimbed and unexplored. Mrs Caswell and the other climbers are seeking sponsorship for the expedition, which is costing £1,600 each.



Pamela Caswell, whose husband Stephen died

She said: "I never thought of giving up climbing after the accident. If you go on trips like that, you have to put up with the risk of things happening. You would be very naive not to think of them.

"I have carried on climbing right the way through since the accident, but I have been a little limited by having a two-year-old child. Everyone who climbs has fears. It is healthy to be afraid. You cannot go into an expedition being completely blasé, but it is like everything — you don't do it unless you want to.

"My husband would have wanted me to carry on, just as I would have expected him not to give up if it had been the other way round.

"I am looking forward to this expedition. We have received grants from the British Mountaineering Council and the Mount Everest Foundation, but we are still looking for sponsorship.

"It is the second time I have been to the Andes, but this time we are going to an area which has been visited only once by the British. There are a lot of unclimbed peaks of between 4,000 and 6,000 metres, and what we are doing is exploration as well as mountaineering."

Libel case damages for Earl Spencer

EARL SPENCER accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages yesterday over newspaper allegations about his attempts to curb the behaviour of a South African photographer.

The Earl, brother of Diana Princess of Wales, now lives in South Africa along with his estranged wife, Victoria, and four children. He was not at the High Court for the settlement of his actions against *The Guardian* and the London *Evening Standard*. His solicitor, Simon Ekins, told Mr Justice Popplewell that the photographer, Fanie Jason, had embarked on a "persistent and relentless campaign of intimidation" directed at the whole family.

Deborah Ashenhurst, representing Associated Newspapers and Guardian Newspapers, unreservedly accepted that there was no truth whatsoever in the defamatory imputations published and sincerely apologised for the embarrassment and distress caused.

They had agreed to pay Lord Spencer substantial damages and his legal costs.

Teenagers in firework arson prank are detained

TWO teenagers who pushed a lighted firework through a letterbox, causing a fire that killed a ten-year-old boy, were sentenced to three years' youth custody yesterday.

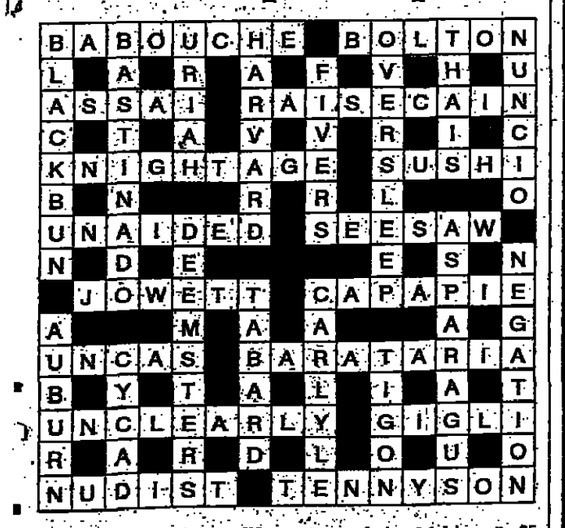
The death of Dale Mitchell prompted a petition signed by thousands of people demanding tighter restrictions on the sale of fireworks, which was delivered to 10 Downing Street earlier this year.

Jonathan Whitbrook, 18, and Christopher Smith, 17, both of Nottingham, admitted reckless arson. Mr Justice Smedley ordered at Leicester Crown Court that a charge of manslaughter lie on file.

The fire at the Mitchells' three-floor family home last October was started after Smith held a firework display for younger members of his own family. He and Whitbrook were walking to a local shop when Whitbrook put a rocket minus its stick into the letterbox and lit it. The pair then ran off, but a fierce fire developed and Dale's mother was unable to reach him.

Whitbrook had told police: "It was just a prank."

The Times Crossword Championship

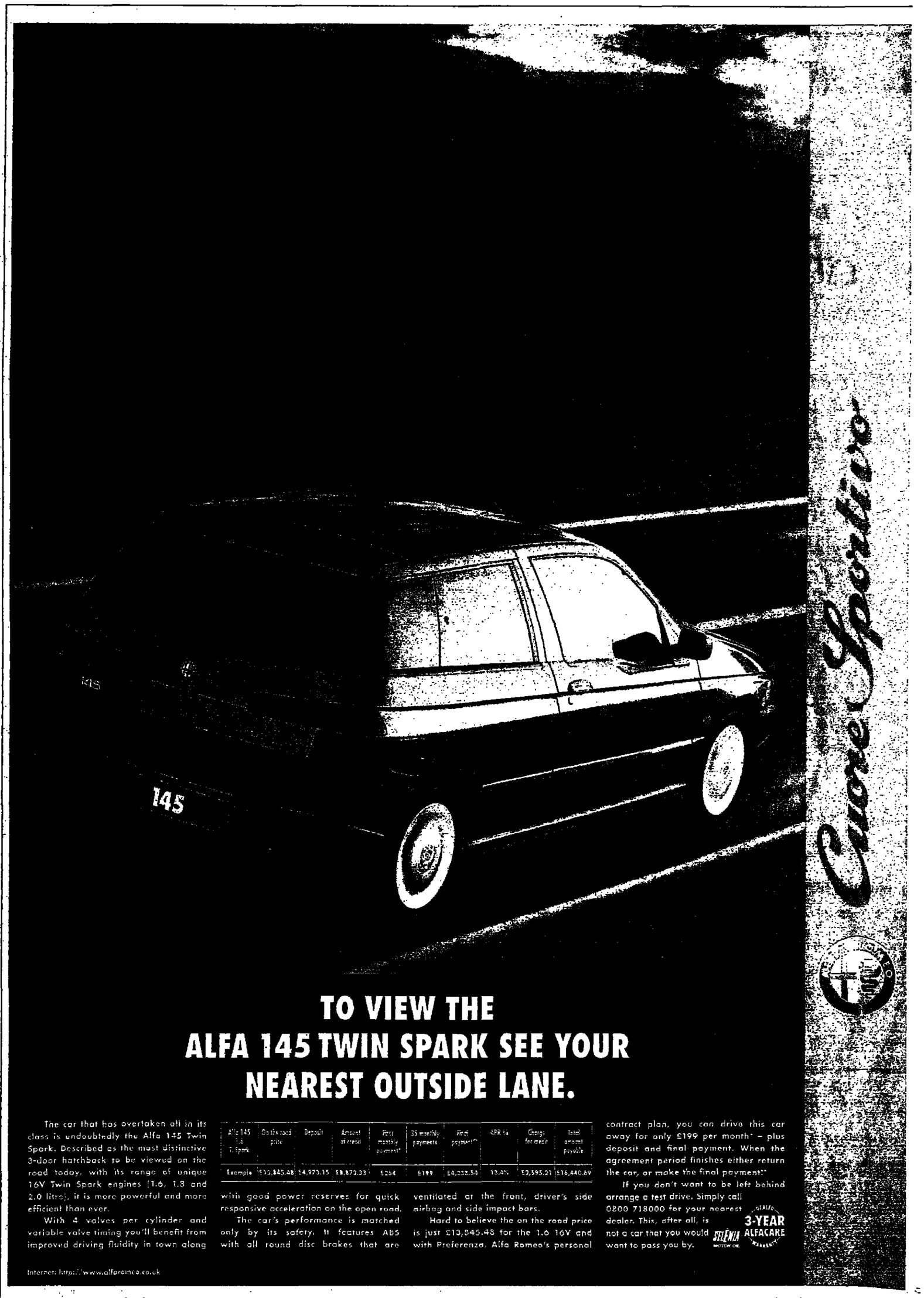


The solution to the qualifying puzzle for this year's Crossword Championship appears above. A brief guide to clarify each of the clues is also given.

The championship will be a single session event, on Sunday August 24 at the Royal Festival Hall between 3pm and 6.30pm.

ACROSS: 1 ouch in Babe; 5 two meanings; 10 assai(f); 11 homophone; 12 anagram; 13 hidden; 14 (g)un+(r)aid+(l)ed; 16 cryptic definition; 19 "I am Master of this college: What I don't know isn't knowledge" (see Oxford Dictionary of Quotations); 21 cap+a pie; 23 uncas(e), character in Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans"; 25 Bar+a+tar+l+a, Sancho Panza's island in "Don Quixote"; 27 "My aged Uncle Arly" (Edward Lear); 28 l in Gigi; 29 Ed in sun (rev.)+t; 30 NY in tenson

DOWN: 1 Blackbu(r)n; 2 cryptic definition; 3 u+hair (rev.); 4 Cambridge, Massachusetts; 6 cryptic definition; 7 two meanings; 8 nunc+l+o; 9 five Rs; 15 Manx judges; 17 full name of Gus, the theatre cat (Eliot); 18 eg in nation; 20 T+a bard, name of inn at start of Canterbury pilgrimage; 21 anagram of (un)clearly; 22 name of "The Deserted Village" (Goldsmith); 24 initial letters; 26 go in tin



Alfa 145 1.6 16 Spark	On the road price	Deposit	Amount of credit	First monthly payment*	35 monthly payments	Final payment**	APR %	Charge for credit	Total amount payable
Example	£13,845.48	£4,973.15	£8,872.33	£264	£199	£6,232.54	13.9%	£2,595.21	£16,440.69

Vehicle shown: Alfa Romeo 145 1.8 Twin Spark. On the road price includes £595 for delivery to dealer, number plates, VAT and 12 months road fund licence. *An administration fee of £65 is included with first monthly payment. **Option to return vehicle and not pay Final Payment without further charges subject to the vehicle not having exceeded the agreed mileage of 12,000 miles per annum and being in good condition. Final Payment includes £25 Option fee. Minimum deposit 10% of cash price. The figures shown are correct at time of printing June-August 1997. Finance available to anyone aged 18 or over, subject to status. A guarantor and/or indemnity may be required. Written quotations are available on request from Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 17089, Edinburgh EH12 5YW. Alfa Romeo Financial Services is a trading style of Fiat Auto Financial Services Limited.

Police may be charged over man's death

The DPP has admitted making errors and is to review the case, **Richard Ford** reports

TWO policemen could be charged with manslaughter after the Director of Public Prosecutions admitted yesterday that there had been an error of law in reaching her original view not to charge them.

Dame Barbara Mills, QC, also accepted that a pathologist's evidence available at the time of the original decision could not support the view that Shiji Lapite's death was caused by an accident.

Mr Lapite died after a violent struggle with officers outside a club in Stoke Newington, north London, in December 1994.

The decision not to prosecute Police Constables Paul Wright and Andrew McCallum was taken by Robert Munday, a principal Crown prosecutor, and was approved by senior officials, including Dame Barbara.

The concession by Dame Barbara came as Olamide Jones, the widow of Mr Lapite, started an unprecedented court challenge to the DPP's decision not to charge the officers over his death.

The Police Complaints Authority also accepted at the outset of High Court proceedings that its decision not to bring disciplinary charges against Constables Wright and McCallum was "flawed and should be quashed", and that there should be another inquiry.

Shiji Lapite, who died, PC Peter Wright, centre, and PC Andrew McCallum

Ms Jones, of Southwark, south London, said in a statement: "I am pleased with the decision but the fight is not over. I hope the police authorities will not continue to protect those responsible for my husband's death and that the CPS will take this opportunity to prosecute the officers involved."

Mr Lapite, a painter and decorator, died aged 34 from aspyhxia and cocaine intoxication after being put in a neck hold as he was leaving the club. He was pinned down by the officers and his larynx was partially crushed. He had up to 45 injuries on his body while the officers were almost unscathed.

At the inquest Constable Wright admitted applying the neck hold and Constable McCallum admitted kicking Mr Lapite twice. They said that the dead man had tried to strangle Constable Wright.

An inquest jury found that Mr Lapite had been unlawfully killed but the CPS decided against bringing charges of manslaughter and the Police Complaints Authority, after hearing representations from Scotland Yard, did not bring disciplinary charges.

Ben Emmerson, counsel for Ms Jones, told the High Court that Mr Lapite died as a result of "injuries inflicted by PC Wright and PC McCallum while in police custody".

Ms Jones launched an application for judicial review of the decision not to prosecute the officers for manslaughter. She believed that the DPP had made a fundamental error of law by applying the wrong elements of the offence of unlawful act of manslaughter: based the decision on an analysis of the cause of death that was unreasonable and untenable on post-mortem evidence: that the evidence of excessive and unlawful force was overwhelming and that it was irrational to conclude otherwise: and that the DPP was under a legal obligation to give reasons for her decision.

Mr Emmerson said that in a recent letter Dame Barbara had agreed to quash her decision because it relied "upon the acceptance of a possibility that the constriction on Mr Lapite's neck that led to his death may have been caused unintentionally by PC Wright's arm having become accidentally entangled in Mr Lapite's clothing, forming a ligature". He said Dame Barbara had been sent a report from the coroner's pathologist which described that theory as "unreasonable and untenable on the post-mortem evidence".

Mr Emmerson told Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Jowitt, said that the director also accepted that an error of law was made when deciding whether there should have been a charge of manslaughter as a result of an unlawful act. The hearing continues.

JAMES HORTON

Olamide Jones, widow of Shiji Lapite, yesterday

Irishman 'killed bogus job racketeer'

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

AN IRISHMAN will appear before a court in Thailand today charged with murder. Colin Martin, 36, is said to have taken revenge after claiming he was duped into becoming an agent for a syndicate that took money from redundant British shipyard workers for Far East jobs that did not exist.

Mr Martin, who lives in Thailand, is alleged to have kidnapped the man he blamed for the scheme and stabbed to death another in trying to recover £200,000 lost by British workers.

He was arrested by Thai police at the Bangkok home of Gerry O'Connor, from New Zealand, who was said to have been held at knifepoint. The body of Bret Holdsworth, a New Zealand ship's captain, was found on a roadside near the beach resort of Pattaya.

Mr Martin is alleged to have gone berserk after tracking down the conmen who, he said, had tricked dozens of shipyard workers from Clydeside, Barrow-on-Furness, Tyneside, Teesside, Merseyside, and Belfast out of their life savings on a promise of lucrative work on the Pacific island of Guam.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children avenge mother

An man obsessed with his ex-girlfriend was jailed for life at Bristol Crown Court for the murder of Barbara Wallace, 33, who had ended their two-month romance. Errol Graham, 24, of Horfield, Bristol, was identified by his victim's children, Brady, eight, and Sacha, ten, who heard their mother's screams.

Brady had run to his mother's aid, striking Graham with a metal bar from a table football game, but the man pushed past him. As Ms Wallace lay with a stab wound to the heart, the children raised the alarm by dialling 999 from a call box.

Al Fayed loses

Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, has lost his attempt to sue Emanouel Naghi, an antiques dealer, who he alleged had sold him forged candelabra in 1986 and 1987. The Court of Appeal ruled that he had taken too long to bring the action.

Mother returns

A baby boy who was left in a telephone box in January at Tameside near Manchester, when he was five days old, was reunited with his young mother yesterday. She had written to social workers saying she wished that she had never let him go.

Obscenity charge

David Kirkland, 42, an accountant at the University of Manchester Institute for Science and Technology, was charged with making obscene telephone calls to boys between April and June. He was remanded on bail by Manchester magistrates.

Sailor's £800 kiss

Royal Navy Warrant Officer Peter Horrocks, 48, was cleared of five sexual harassment charges by a court martial in Portsmouth but fined £800 and given a severe reprimand for kissing a Wren on the neck in "wholly unacceptable behaviour".

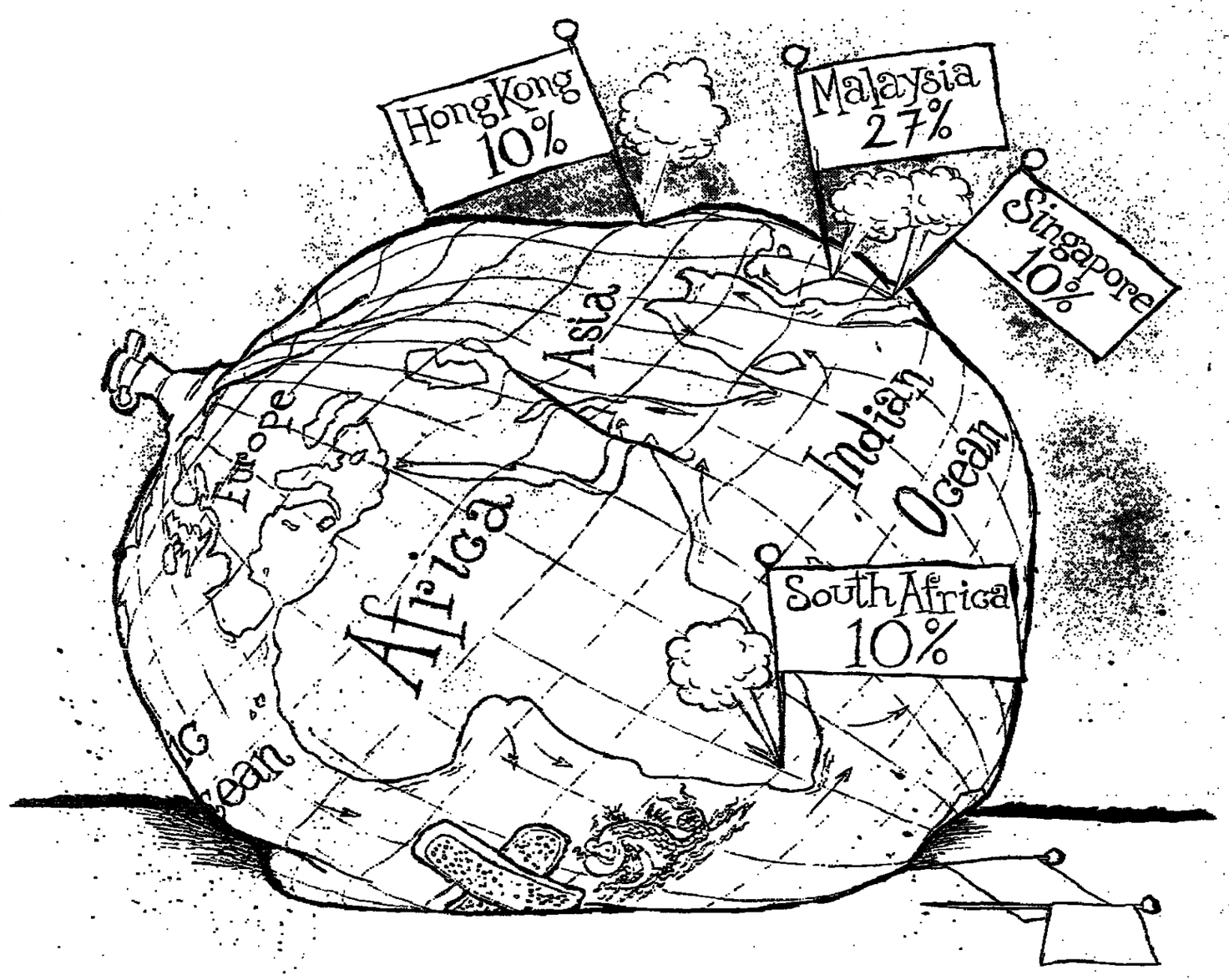
Alcopops ban

A new pub has been granted a licence that incorporates a ban on alcopops. Judge Richard Haworth imposed the condition at Kingston Crown Court after an appeal against magistrates' refusal to license The Hogshead at Kingston upon Thames.

Mail logic

The Green Dragon pub in Lovedean, Hampshire, got a letter through its letterbox from the Royal Mail, saying mail could not be put through the letterbox because a parked trailer made it hard to reach. The postman had squeezed in a 10in gap and bent sideways.

How much is BT deflating the cost of calls around the world?



A 5 minute weekend call to Malaysia now costs £3.48, to South Africa £3.38 and only £2.64 to Hong Kong and Singapore. You could save a further 25% with BT's Friends & Family and PremierLine discounts. For information on BT's discounts call 24 hour **Free***fone 0800* **003 800.**

The cost of calling keeps on falling BT

Excludes BT public payphone and BT Chargecard calls. Friends & Family is not available with the Light User scheme. PremierLine subscription is £6 per quarter. Friends and Family discount is available on one international number.

THE SUMMER SALE

Ends Saturday 26th July

The gift of music is one of the world's great pleasures. And Chappell's July Sale is the perfect opportunity to treat yourselves and save money on any of our huge selection of the world's finest instruments.

Chappell's have BIG savings on Yamaha Clavinovas, keyboards and pianos, brass and woodwind. There are great offers on guitars by Gibson, Fender, Epiphone, Yamaha and other leading makers. Plus fantastic offers on synths, pro audio, multimedia, home recording and software.

We're offering up to 50% off a great selection of titles from our massive range of sheet music.

Visit our showroom at 50 New Bond Street, London or call us FREE on 0500 004976.

Chappell of Bond Street

also at Milton Keynes Shopping Centre on 0500 003909

Hanged Oxford student had tried suicide before

Parents and friend criticise university care, reports **Kathryn Knight**

AN OXFORD student who hanged herself just weeks before her finals had already attempted suicide twice during her time at the university, an inquest was told yesterday.

Sarah Napuk's parents refused to attend the hearing, and instead issued an open letter warning other families not to send their "vulnerable and sensitive young children" to the "unsafe" environment of Oxford University.

Miss Napuk, 21, a history student, was expected to get a first, and had secured a Kennedy Fellowship at Harvard. She had suffered from depression since the sixth form, and was taking medication when she went to college in 1994.

She received counselling from the university over her problems with the academic workload. Three weeks after her second attempt to take her own life with an overdose, she was found hanging from the wardrobe in her room at Lady Margaret Hall.

A fellow student, Rebecca Tuck, told the Oxford inquest that she was encouraging Miss Napuk to ask to see a different counsellor. She said the woman she was seeing was advising her to leave the university and telling her she could not cope. Miss Napuk "saw herself as having writer's block and was unable to produce essays, and that culminated in her taking an overdose of seven or eight paracetamol in June 1995.

Sarah Napuk, left, and her friend Rebecca Tuck, who criticised counselling at Oxford University

"This year she seemed to be having more problems. She realised she was going to have to start doing a lot more academic work and realised what gaps she had, particularly from her second year."

At the end of March, Miss Napuk took an overdose of 20 paracetamol. After hospital treatment, she went home to see her family in Edinburgh. "When she came back, she seemed a little bit better. She had drawn up a work schedule but she was having trouble doing any work at all," Miss Tuck said. "She explained she was having problems with her fiancé, who was having panic attacks. On top of the work, she was unable to cope with this."

The vice-principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Frances Lannon, said that Miss Napuk found it difficult to strike a balance between her work and her outside interests. Dr Lannon, Miss Napuk's moral tutor, said: "Tutors commented on her very obvious ability, but consistently reported she was not working steadily enough. She was very much involved in the organisation of student life, often in ways helpful to other students, but I was anxious this was took too much of her time."

Dr McShane, a psychiatrist at Oxford's Churchill Hospital who attended Miss Napuk after her second overdose, said she had a history of mood swings but had been particularly stressed about her workload. After Miss Napuk hanged herself on April 10, a work schedule drawn up was found on her desk nearby.

Recording a verdict of suicide, the coroner Nicholas Gardiner passed his condolences to Miss Napuk's parents Kerry, 56, American businessman, and Angela. In their letter, the Napuks were critical of the counselling structure at Oxford and claimed to have found flaws in a new system that was said to have strengthened the safety net for students.

After the hearing, Miss Tuck, who has just completed her final exams in law, said Miss Napuk had been let down by the system and not by her own personality.

However, the Reverend Professor Ernest Nicholson, chairman of the university's student health committee, said: "I have to say with great sadness that even with many more counsellors, we could not necessarily have prevented this tragedy."

Childminder jailed for manslaughter

Judge sends warning that working mothers have right to expect exemplary childcare, reports **Paul Wilkinson**

A CHILDMINDER who killed a four-month-old girl after a momentary loss of patience was yesterday jailed for five years for manslaughter.

A judge accepted that Angela Lee, 46, who has two children, had an impeccable seven-year record as a childminder before the death of Danielle Firth. But he said that mothers who went to work had a right to expect that "tender little lives" would be protected.

Lee was acquitted of murdering Danielle in February last year but convicted of manslaughter by a jury at Leeds Crown Court. The verdict satisfied Danielle's parents, Barrie and Peira Firth. "We did not believe it was murder, she just snapped," Mr Firth said.

Police said that the parents had taken every possible care in selecting the childminder, who was registered with Kirklees council and had an exemplary record. But Danielle died just ten days after her first visit to Lee's home in Denby Dale, west Yorkshire. The baby had five head injuries, thought to have been caused by being shaken, thrown against a hard surface and prodded or smacked.

Lee gave three different accounts of injuries

Judge Brian Walsh, QC, told Lee: "It is the practice of many women to return to work when their children are still little. In order that they can do this, people like you qualify as childminders and mothers pay you to care and look after their children.

"Whether babies are occasionally fractious or awkward, whether they take their bottles or not, they are tender little lives. They are entitled to be treated carefully by those who care for them. For some reason, and I accept for a very short time, you lost your patience and self-control, probably while you were trying to feed her, and in frustration you shook her slapped her and dropped her." Lee, whose children were aged 12 and 4 at the time of the baby's death, gave three accounts of how the injuries occurred.

First she told police that the baby had fallen from its car seat on to a toy castle, then that she had fallen from her lap as she fed her. In court Lee admitted that she had lied because she feared her registration would be withdrawn, and said that the baby had slipped from her grasp as she stood up to find a tissue. The girl was dead when paramedics arrived.

After the verdict Mr and Mrs Firth called for tighter controls on childminders, including spot checks on their homes. "You cannot just sit back and accept that everything is working smoothly," said Mr Firth, of Barnoldswick, Lancashire. The couple now have a seven-month-old son.

Anne Marie Graham, head of Kirklees Early Years Service, said: "Kirklees has very comprehensive policies covering the registration and training of childminders, over and above national guidelines. But however thorough guidelines may be, it is clearly impossible to legislate for a one-off tragic incident."

Barrie and Peira Firth, outside court, calling for spot checks on childminders

Cut costs by keeping the elderly busy, says think-tank

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

CARE for the elderly is in disarray, with old people caught in a game of "pass the parcel" between health and social services, according to the independent think-tank Demos. One solution to the problem of funding services for the aged, it suggests, is to encourage them to take up voluntary work.

This would not only keep them active but provide manpower to keep services running, says a report by Demos. Its chief criticisms are that inefficient financing makes poor use of paid care staff, services are unresponsive and designed for the convenience of the providers and professionals rather than those who need them, and that the system works only because families make huge contributions.

Calling for a seamless system of support for the elderly, based on their needs and preferences, the report says that policies from transport to planning need to be audited to ensure they promote independence.

Educational programmes to keep older people's minds active are needed alongside integrated chiropody, physiotherapy and occupational therapy programmes to look after their physical disorders. A single budget bridging health and community care is described as essential.

Demos also suggests setting up energy conservation programmes to keep homes warm and in good repair, cutting the incidence of illness caused by cold and damp.

Overall there should be a robust social network for the elderly. The generation now-growing old may prefer videos-on-wheels to meals-on-wheels, while the Internet could be used to develop and to maintain community relationships.

"Without radical reform, ageing for Britons in the 21st century will be a wretched business," the report says. "The growing numbers of elderly people will not tolerate that for long."

☐ *Holding back the years* (Demos, 9 Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP; £7.95)

BT engineers claim unfair sacking

By Stephen Farrell and Glen Owen

TWO BT computer experts who beat 30 million callers to win tickets costing £10 for Concorde flights are to take their employer to an industrial tribunal after being dismissed for allegedly abusing their technical knowledge.

Neville Secular and Dean Perry, who worked in the same office, were sacked after BT admitted security procedures were breached during a British Airways Valentine's Day offer.

Mr Secular, 25, from Orpington, Kent, and Mr Perry, from Essex, were among the first 190 winning callers to a hotline number on February 12. Both were configuration engineers sharing an office at BT's Data Build division in London, which deals with digital switches and software that runs the telephone network. The pair claimed to have dialled the 0345 hotline in the normal way, using the speaking clock and redial buttons on their handsets to synchronise their calls when the lines opened at exactly 10pm.

But telecom experts claimed they could have had access to specialised knowledge enabling them to bypass "call-gapping" mechanisms that filter out many calls at an early stage to avoid overloading the network. Richard Cox, an independent consultant, said: "Data Build are probably the group of people who know most about how the system works."

At first BT insisted the offer was a genuine lottery for all those taking part. However, the pair failed to take their Concorde seats on February 14 and were later dismissed after an internal inquiry.

A BT spokeswoman said yesterday: "We had a full investigation and individuals who abused their position were dismissed. BT has now ensured that in any future promotions there are processes to prevent the repetition of any abuses that occurred on this occasion."

The offer was one of the most oversubscribed ever, with 20 million calls between 9.50pm and 10.15pm for the £5,400 return trip tickets. The airline said last night that it was satisfied with the inquiry. BT is to pay about £20,000 to five charities nominated by BA, including Unicef and schools and orphanages in Ghana and Bangladesh.

The unfair dismissal claims have been lodged at Stratford industrial tribunal, east London. No date has been set.

ON NO ACCOUNT ACCEPT LOW INTEREST WHEN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT'S IN CREDIT.

Caution: Many bank accounts give you little, if any, interest when you're in credit. But not the Abbey National Bank Account.

At Abbey National we currently offer one of the highest credit interest rates on the high street, and, if you pay in £500 or more each month, we'll give you a bonus which doubles the rate of interest. In fact, as you can see from the table below, with an Abbey National Bank Account you could be receiving up to 14 times more interest, compared to another bank we could mention.

Balance	Interest Rate Gross p.a. £1,000	£25,000+
Abbey National	**1.60%**	**3.50%**
Barclays	0.30%	0.30%
Lloyds	0.30%	0.50%
Halifax	0.50%	1.00%
Nat West	0.25%	0.25%
Midland	0.25%	0.25%

Source: The Research Department Ltd. All financial information is checked for accuracy on a weekly basis.

And it doesn't stop there. The Abbey National Bank Account offers everything else you would expect from a bank account, and if you're switching from another bank, we'll give you a four month free overdraft, so there's no danger of upsetting your cash-flow.

Interested? Then you'll be glad to hear that you can apply for an Abbey National Bank Account over the phone and receive a decision there and then. So to apply, pick up the phone, call Abbey National Direct on 0500 200 500 and quote reference A564C/10. Or pop into your local branch.

0500 200 500

M49

Telephone lines open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor telephone calls. Comparisons based on interest bearing current accounts. Rates may vary. Rates quoted for the Abbey National Bank Account include bonus payable on crediting at least £500 to the account each month for 12 months. You may be able to receive interest gross, otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. See leaflet for full conditions. Overdrafts and Multifunction cards are only available to Abbey National Bank Account holders, subject to status and not available to persons under 18 years. Written quotations are available on request. After the initial interest free period, interest will be payable at the standard variable rate, currently 11.9% APR on authorised overdrafts. APR is variable. Overdrafts are repayable at any time in accordance with our personal banking terms and conditions. Telephone banking is available to Bank Account and Instant Plus Account customers who have a Multifunction, Electron or Abbeylink card. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

Saturday in THE TIMES

Reggie Kray marries again. What makes a woman marry a gangster?

Judges offered role in deciding law policy

Deal may end tensions over justice reforms, reports Frances Gibb

LORD Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, last night proposed a new partnership between judges and ministers to give the judiciary input into government policymaking on the justice system and end tensions between them.

He told the judges' annual dinner at the Mansion House: "It is essential that Government be able to speak to the judiciary and the judiciary to Government." The approach would be in marked contrast to that of the previous Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

With the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, close by, the Lord Chancellor said it was widely perceived by the public that under the last Government "relations between the higher judiciary and the Government had sunk to an all-time low". But the new Government had "learnt from the errors of our predecesors," Lord Irvine said.

He "regarded it as of the first importance" that the judges' views were taken into account on proposed changes to the law. Any views the judges had of "damage they apprehend to the system from legislative proposals ... should be able to be made known effectively to Government at a stage when policy is still being formulated".

Lord Irvine: he would be intermediary for talks

Lord Irvine made clear that he saw himself as the intermediary between judges and the Government. Although it would sometimes be right for judges to have discussions with other Cabinet ministers, he said "discretion should be exercised on both sides whether that might be appropriate".

He reminded the audience of several hundred judges that he was chairing several Cabinet committees, including one on the Queen's Speech and future legislation. Lord Irvine said he could not guarantee that ministers and judges would always agree, but if they disagreed, they would do so civilly.

In a spirit of rapprochement he added: "Any Lord Chancellor is likely to share with the judiciary common values arising out of the nature and long traditions of our justice system. I doubt that we will be disagreeing often."

Lord Irvine also signalled a concession on court fees, which have come under strong attack from across the legal profession as an obstacle to going to law.

He said he would be considering whether the existing exemptions from court fees — which were sharply increased earlier this year — should be extended beyond people on income support to those on other benefits such as jobseeker's allowance, the disability working allowance, and Family Credit.

He emphasised that the Government would listen carefully to the judiciary on what model for a Bill of Rights it favoured. But Lord Irvine made clear that whatever model was chosen would preserve parliamentary sovereignty.

The legislation would be introduced in the Lords and he would be "piloting it through the chamber," he said. "What is critical is that the form of incorporation (of the European Convention) sits comfortably with our United Kingdom institutions. It must not disturb the supremacy of Parliament.

"It must not put the judges in a position where they are seen as at odds with Parliament. That would be a recipe for conflict and mutual recrimination."

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Nothing to beam about: Scotty, left, with Chekov and Captain James T. Kirk

Star Trek heroes can't go quite so boldly after all

By Nick Nuttall

IT IS the sort of problem that Scotty, the chief engineer of the starship *Enterprise*, would have fixed in a few minutes with a rueful smile and a spot of light welding. However, modern scientists say they cannot find any solution to the workings of warp speed as featured in *Star Trek*.

Travelling beyond the speed of light would require an improbably large amount of energy, even for the pride of the space fleet. The energy needed to accelerate to Warp Factor One equals 10 billion times more energy than is locked up in the entire universe.

"This is a fantastic amount of energy. I don't think it's very likely that anyone will find a way to do this," said Larry Ford, a researcher from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, writing in *Classical and Quantum Gravity*.

The research, drawing on Einstein's general theory of relativity, suggests that the energy involved in one solution — shrinking space ahead of the ship and expanding it at the back — would require an anti-gravity effect of awesome proportions.

However, a separate report in *New Scientist* offers news that transporters — used to beam *Star Trek* crew members between planets to the ship — may be edging from science fiction to fact. Other researchers have found that there may be a way of re-assembling humans atom by atom, without making a mess.

French scientists, writing in the *Physical Letters Review*, may have created the special atoms needed. Scrambling a person's atomic structure and re-assembling it had been deemed impossible. According to the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, you cannot measure all the properties of an atom precisely.

However, the French team have created entangled particles that carry "memories" of each other.

Aswan Dam 'may trigger Ice Age'

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE Aswan Dam could trigger a new Ice Age, a scientist has predicted. Bob Johnson, of the University of Minnesota, believes that building the Egyptian dam in 1968 has led to oceanic and climatic effects that could cause a massive build-up of ice in the Arctic, freezing the northern hemisphere.

Dr Johnson says in *New Scientist* that it is a "pretty far-out idea ... but I am quite serious". His theory has some support from work by researchers at Colorado and Quebec universities. They have found evidence from marine fossils that the Ice Age of 120,000 years ago was caused when ice packs in the Arctic grew.

The Nile dam has stopped fresh water entering the Mediterranean, which is getting saltier. As salt water is heavier than fresh water, the flows from the sea are getting bigger. After leaving the Straits of Gibraltar, the extra flows move north, where they meet the warm Gulf Stream.

Dr Johnson, an oceanologist, says that this will push more of the stream into the Labrador Sea. This is likely to trigger heavier snowfall in the Arctic, causing a huge expansion of ice sheets. He wants a giant barrage built across the Straits of Gibraltar to reduce the extra flows.

☐ Repeated bombardments of Earth by comets and asteroids may be more common than supposed. Canadian scientists have found evidence that the planet was hit by two huge objects 34 million years ago.

£50.00 Gift vouchers available on all mortgages for First Time Buyers, only from your local branch.

Just what you need to buy your dream home.

Your dream mortgage.

UP TO £6,000 CASHBACK

3% DISCOUNT UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER 1998

5.4% APR

MINIMUM £25,000 LOAN APPLIES

What would you think of a mortgage that gave you up to £6,000 cashback (or 3% of the loan amount) and a 3% discount until 1 September 1998?

(Now, how handy would that be with solicitors fees to pay and new furniture to buy?)

A mortgage that would cut your first year's monthly payments by 36%*?

(That could save you around £111.25 a month!)

A mortgage that lets you borrow up to 90% loan to value.

Too good to be true? It's called an Alliance & Leicester 'Discount Plus' mortgage and, pinch, pinch, wakey-wakey, it's true.

Drop in to your local Alliance & Leicester branch or phone 0800 412 214 and we'll tell you more.

No, you're not dreaming. Honest.

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

http://www.alliance-leicester.co.uk

THE ABOVE £50.00 PROMOTIONAL OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO FIRST TIME BUYERS WHO APPLY BETWEEN 30TH JUNE AND 13TH SEPTEMBER 1997. FOR FULL DETAILS ABOUT THESE OFFERS, INCLUDING CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS WHICH APPLY, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. RATE AND APR CHARGED ARE VARIABLE AND ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES. APR QUOTED IS FOR MORTGAGES ON AN INTEREST ONLY BASIS. ALTHOUGH OUR DISCOUNTED MORTGAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON A REPAYMENT BASIS. THE DISCOUNTED RATE OF 5.20% (5.4% APR) (VARIABLE) ONLY APPLIES UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER 1998. THE APR AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE HAVE BEEN CALCULATED ON THE BASIS THAT THE VARIABLE RATE WILL BE THE SAME AS THE DISCOUNTED RATE THROUGHOUT THE TERM OF THE MORTGAGE. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, AT THE END OF THE DISCOUNTED RATE PERIOD, OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE (CURRENTLY 8.20% 8.6% APR) WILL BE CHARGED. OUR DISCOUNTED MORTGAGES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW CUSTOMERS OR TO EXISTING BORROWERS MOVING HOME. UNLESS YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFER OF LOAN, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS MORTGAGE OFFER WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. IN SOME INSTANCES IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RETAIN MORTGAGE TAX RELIEF ON REMORTGAGES. AN APPLICATION FEE IS PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF THIS PRODUCT AND YOU WILL STILL INCUR LEGAL AND VALUATION COSTS. THE CASHBACK, EQUAL TO 3% OF THE LOAN IS PAYABLE ON COMPLETION OF YOUR MORTGAGE. A MINIMUM LOAN OF £25,000 APPLIES. YOUR HOME IS SECURITY FOR THE LOAN AND MUST BE ADEQUATELY INSURED. LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. FOR INTEREST ONLY MORTGAGES AN APPROPRIATE PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN (PEP), PENSION PLAN OR ENDOWMENT POLICY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO BE ARRANGED (CONTRIBUTIONS/PREMIUMS WILL BE PAYABLE TO THE COMPANY INVOLVED). FOR LOANS EXCEEDING 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER) A HIGH PERCENTAGE LOAN FEE WILL BE CHARGED. DETAILS OF THIS FEE ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. ANY SAVINGS REFERRED TO IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT ARE BASED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE AND THE RATE QUOTED. THE DISCOUNT PLUS MORTGAGE IS RESTRICTED TO 90% (INCLUDING SELF EMPLOYED APPLICANTS) OF THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). THE APR QUOTED MAY BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFER FROM THE ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE EXAMPLE BELOW IS BASED. RATE AND INFORMATION ARE CORRECT AS AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS MAY ALTER IF MORTGAGE TAX RELIEF CHANGES. IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE INCLUDES VALUATION CHARGE OF £100.00, HIGH PERCENTAGE LOAN FEE OF £904.00, SOLICITOR'S MORTGAGE CHARGE OF £[illegible], APPLICATION FEE OF £195.00 (PAYABLE ON COMPLETION AND DEDUCTED FROM THE CASHBACK), DEEDS PRODUCTION CHARGE £50.00 AND £[illegible] REDEMPTION AND SEALING CHARGE. EXAMPLE: DISCOUNTED UNTIL 1.09.98 £40,000 INTEREST ONLY LOAN FOR 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY VALUED AT £[illegible] AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 5.20% (5.4% APR) (VARIABLE) WITH THE FIRST MONTHLY INTEREST ONLY PAYMENT OF £337.48 (GROSS) (INCLUDING ACCRUED INTEREST), FOLLOWED BY 288 PAYMENTS OF £212.33 (GROSS). TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £113,884.91. *THE 36% REDUCTION IS BASED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MONTHLY PAYMENTS NET OF TAX RELIEF (MIRAS) ON THE ABOVE EXAMPLE AT OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE OF 8.20% AND THE DISCOUNTED RATE OF 5.20%. MONTHLY PAYMENT (AFTER TAX RELIEF) AT 8.20% IS £304.09. MONTHLY PAYMENT (AFTER TAX RELIEF) AT 5.20% IS £192.85. (A REDUCTION OF £111.25 PER MONTH OR 36% REDUCTION UNTIL 1.09.98). IF YOU WANT TO PAY BACK ALL OR PART OF YOUR MORTGAGE WITHIN THE FIRST 5 YEARS A FEE MAY BE PAYABLE. THIS WILL BE CHARGED AT 6 MONTHS GROSS INTEREST (AT OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE) IN THE FIRST 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS IN YEARS 4 AND 5. IF YOU REDEEM YOUR MORTGAGE WITHIN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS A FEE OF 9 MONTHS' GROSS INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED. THE REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE WAIVED IF YOU MOVE HOME AND IMMEDIATELY TAKE-OUT YOUR NEW MORTGAGE WITH US. IF WE AGREE TO YOU TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER OF OUR PRODUCTS WITHIN THE REPAYMENT FEE PERIOD SPECIFIED THE REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF TRANSFER. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE ON THIS KIND OF OBLIGATION YOU MAY PREFER OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGE WITHOUT A CASHBACK OR NO REPAYMENT FEE MORTGAGE. FULL DETAILS ABOUT THESE MORTGAGES ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER PLC CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRE, NARBOROUGH, LEICESTER LE8 0FX. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER MARKETING GROUP, CONSISTING OF ALLIANCE & LEICESTER PLC AND ALLIANCE & LEICESTER LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND ALLIANCE & LEICESTER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED WHICH IS REGULATED BY IMRO, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSION, UNIT TRUST AND PEP PRODUCTS. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER PLC REGISTERED OFFICE: 49 PARK LANE, LONDON W1Y 4EQ. COMPANY NO 3263713 REGISTERED IN ENGLAND. AUTHORISED AS A BANK PURSUANT TO THE BANKING ACT 1987. MEMBER OF THE BRITISH BANKERS ASSOCIATION. JULY 1997

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER PLC

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

VIRGIN TRAINS OFFER BOOKING NEWS

Virgin trains

Following the unprecedented response to The Times/Virgin Trains offer, trains are now fully booked until mid-August on Fridays and weekends.

There are seats on trains from Mondays to Thursdays and from mid-August there are seats on trains all days of the week until 27th September.

Readers who have taken up our Virgin Trains offer will be pleased to know that Virgin Trains have also arranged extra booking facilities.

You can now book your journey in person at either Crewe*, Coventry or London Euston railway stations.

Just take your letter with your personal reference number and fulfilment guide to the travel centre at any of these stations by 2pm at the latest on the day before you want to travel.

OPENING TIMES

Coventry 8.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5.30pm Sat, 10.30am-6pm Sun

London Euston 6.30am-9pm Mon-Sat, 7.30am-9pm Sun

Crewe 1pm-5pm Friday, 9am-5pm Sat and Sun.

CHANGING TIMES

*From 25/7/97 onwards on Friday pm, Saturday and Sunday only.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Judges urge reform in gays' rights on housing

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Government faced calls yesterday to reform the law after a man who lived with his homosexual partner for almost 20 years lost his battle for the same tenancy succession rights as a spouse.

The Court of Appeal ruled by two to one that Martin Fitzpatrick, 47, could not succeed to his partner's tenancy because the law does not recognise the rights of same-sex partners.

But Lords Justices Waite, Roch and Ward called for Parliament to legislate concerning the rights of gay men and lesbians. Lord Justice Waite said that the present law of succession as it related to tenancies protected under the Rent Acts was "arbitrary and discriminatory".

"Few would support the potential for unfairness involved in a law that gives automatic succession rights to wives (however faithless) and children (however feckless) and at the same time denies any hope of succession to friends, however devoted their loyalty to the joint household."

Mr Fitzpatrick, a former serviceman in the Royal Navy, said afterwards that he knew he could not win as the law stood, but claimed a "vital moral victory". He said he would take his fight for the tenancy of the flat in west London he shared with John Thompson, a silversmith, until his death in 1994, to the House of Lords.

The court was told that the two men had a loving and monogamous relationship. They met in 1969 and lived in the flat from 1976. Mr Fitzpatrick looked after Mr Thompson for the last nine years of his life after he suffered irreversible brain damage from a fall downstairs.

Mr Thompson was the official tenant of the flat and after his death the landlords, the Sterling Housing Association Ltd, served Mr Fitzpatrick with notice to quit.

Lord Justice Waite said changes certainly had to be made "if Parliament is to fulfil its function of reflecting the spirit of our times — in particular the spirit that recognises the value of all abiding relationships, the heterosexual, the lesbian, the gay — or even those which are not sexually based at all".

Lord Justice Roch, who also found against Mr Fitzpatrick, said he agreed that the terms of the Rent Act 1977 should be reconsidered with a view to bringing such cases within the protection of the Act.

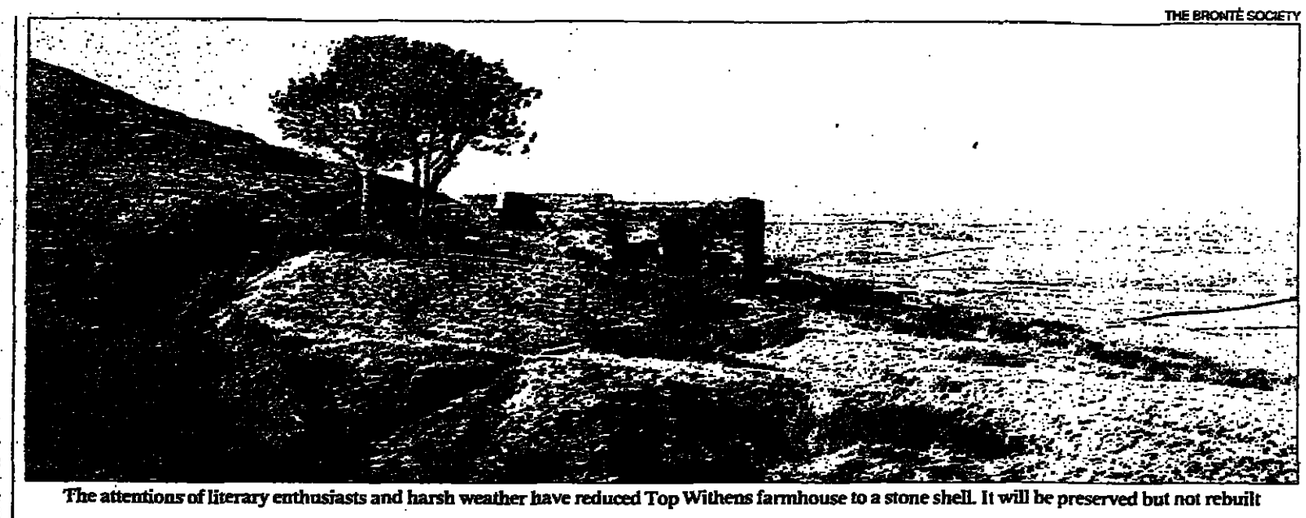
Lord Justice Ward, who would have allowed Mr Fitzpatrick's appeal, said: "There is no essential difference between a homosexual and a heterosexual couple and accordingly I would find that the appellant had lived with the deceased tenant as his husband or wife."

Peter Tatchell, of the gay rights group OutRage!, said: "The Government should respond to the judges' call for changes in the law by indicating its commitment to legislate equal rights for gay tenants and their partners."

Angela Mason, executive director of Stonewall, the gay rights pressure group, said: "Stonewall will now seek to have a Private Member's Bill tabled to give Parliament the opportunity to redress this wrong."

Fitzpatrick: said he had won a moral victory

THE BRONTÈ SOCIETY



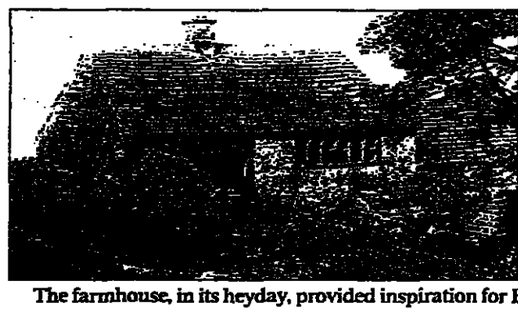
The attentions of literary enthusiasts and harsh weather have reduced Top Withens farmhouse to a stone shell. It will be preserved but not rebuilt

Rescue for Brontes' withering heights

A PENNINE farm said to have inspired the setting of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* is to be preserved after decades of neglect (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Top Withens is today a crumbling stone shell high on a desolate hillside above the Brontë family home at Haworth Parsonage, near Keighley, west Yorkshire. But 150 years ago it was regularly visited by the Brontës during their excursions on the moors.

Yorkshire Water, on whose land the building stands, is to spend £20,000 stabilising the surviving masonry but will not restore the building. Yesterday in the Commons, Ann Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, called for the farmhouse to be listed. It was listed in 1974 after a campaign by her late husband, Bob Cryer MP, but was delisted in 1992, partly because of its poor condition.



The farmhouse, in its heyday, provided inspiration for Emily Brontë's only novel

Mrs Cryer said: "I have campaigned with the Brontë Society for a number of years to get Yorkshire Water to protect the building. I am delighted by this promise to spend money on the site, but I want Yorkshire Water to carry out the work and I want Top Withens listed."

Yorkshire Water has been criticised in recent years for not caring for the landmark, which is visited by thousands of Brontë enthusiasts each year.

Bob Baxter, Yorkshire Water's conservation and recreation officer, said: "It is partly due to the gradual erosion of the farmhouse by inquisitive literary enthusiasts and partly due to exposure to the elements that Yorkshire Water has decided to take this action.

"Many people felt it would be wrong to try to recreate Top Withens in its entirety as the farmhouse would lose its ambience and mystique."

Sightseers may end up in the workhouse

By John Young

ONE of the earliest surviving workhouses in Britain has been acquired by the National Trust as an historic social monument and is likely to be opened to the public after repairs.

Thurgarton workhouse, in Southwell, Nottinghamshire, was formerly owned by the county council, and has suffered more than 20 years of neglect. Despite being listed Grade II*, it, was under threat of redevelopment.

Built in 1824, it became a model for workhouse design and featured in a report that led to the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, removing reponsibility for poverty relief from local authorities and vested it in unions run by an elected Board of Guardians.

Workhouses were established to keep the destitute off the streets and, it was hoped, save them from a life of crime. Paupers, vagrants, the mentally and physically disabled, foundlings, and orphans were accommodated and fed in exchange for menial tasks.

Christopher Pennell, the trust's East Midlands director, said: "The building has an unrivalled potential to teach us about the past." The Trust is seeking funds for restoration, including a new roof.

Bed firm sues over escort agency listing

By A Staff Reporter

A BED company is suing Thomson's Directories after its local phone book entry appeared under the heading for escort agencies: The Blackpool family firm of Howarth Beds was listed as Howling Beds.

Brian Howarth, 45, said: "We have had to cope with a great deal of ridicule. We have been bombarded with time-wasting phone calls, many of an indecent nature. I have had people coming into the shop and asking me, 'Where is the brothel?'

"We have tried to reach a satisfactory conclusion but it has become apparent that issuing a writ is the only way forward. We need to clear our family name and our standing in business. Thomson offered us a free advert next year but that is not enough."

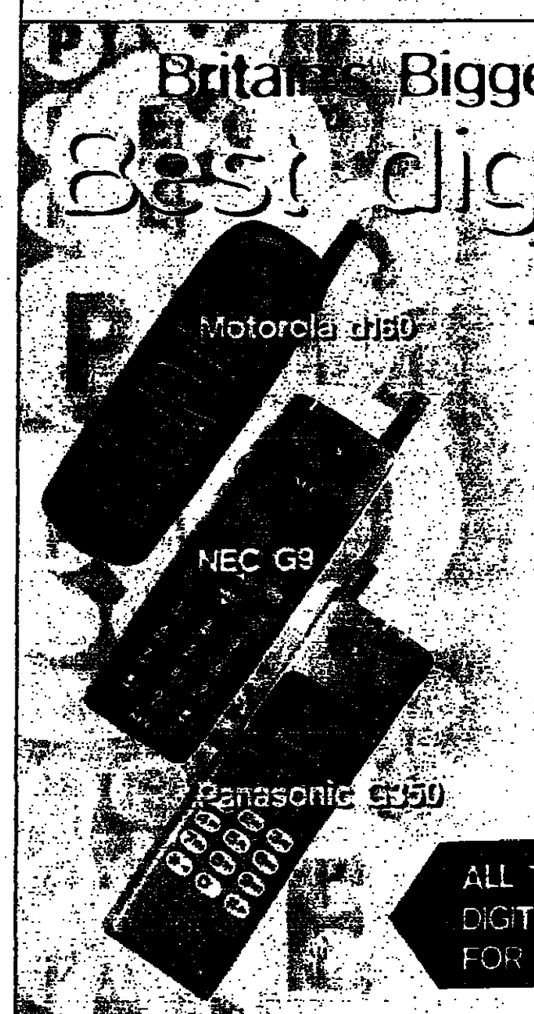
The firm is run by Cyril Howarth, 67, his wife, Mary, 66, and Brian, their son. The error in the 1997-98 edition comes after years of having a correct listing in the Thomson's Local directory.

Yesterday Howarth Beds issued a writ in the Blackpool District of the High Court, claiming undisclosed damages for alleged libel. The company maintain that the listing is defamatory and was written maliciously by an employee of Thomson's.

PEOPLES PHONE

Britain's Biggest Specialist

Best digital deal in Britain



FREE ACCESSORIES
FREE leather case & FREE in-car power charger worth £35.00

FREE CALLS
15 minutes free every month – forever

PER SECOND BILLING with VODAFONE

ALL THESE DIGITAL PHONES FOR ONLY £9.99 EACH (inc VAT)

180 stores nationwide
to place an order or for your nearest store
call free 0800 10 11 12

Offer is subject to status, availability and connection to a Vodafone GSM tariff at £35.00 inc VAT on a new number to a new standard airtime contract. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offers. Offer ends 31st July 1997. T2647

DEBENHAMS

Blue Cross

LAST 4 DAYS*

A FURTHER 20% OFF selected Summer SALE ticket prices

Womenswear, Accessories, Lingerie, Childrenswear, Menswear and Home

THE DIFFERENCE IS DEBENHAMS

Prices return to normal on Monday 28 July 1997.

*Selected stores open Sunday 27 July: Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Brighton, Bristol, Bromley, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Chester, Crawley, Croydon, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Folkestone, Glasgow, Harrow, Hastings, Lakeside, Leeds White Rose, Leicester, Lincoln, Manchester, Meadowhall, Merry Hill Centre, Oxford, Oxford Street, Plymouth, Preston, Salisbury, Southampton, Southend, Southport, Stockport, Stratford upon Avon, Torquay, Wimbledon, Worthing.

Most offers available in all Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester. Stock subject to availability.

http://www.debenhams.co.uk

Dewar to reveal spoils of Cabinet battle

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION
The Scottish Office

In a series of articles, *Times* writers are examining the new Government's efforts to bring a fresh approach to Whitehall

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Scots have been waiting 300 years for their own parliament and today they will find out how far Tony Blair's Government is prepared to go in allowing them a say in managing their own affairs, and at at what cost.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will publish the White Paper on devolution for Scotland, outlining plans for a single-chamber parliament based in Edinburgh with 129 members, partly elected by proportional representation. The Government hopes to have it set up by the turn of the century.

If all goes according to Labour's plans, this gathering of men and women will determine the future of the National Health Service in Scotland as well as the education system, the criminal justice system and policies for transport housing, employment, rural affairs and tourism. The Scottish parliament will also be able to raise income taxes by up to 3p in the pound to pay for special projects. But today interest will be focused not so much on what is in the White Paper as on what has been left out. How much control will Mr Dewar have managed to wrest from Westminster?

The Scottish Secretary is a man much given to understatement. Despite being one of the finest wits in the Commons, he rarely cracks a smile. In Glaswegian parlance he has "a face like a nippy sweetie" and for the past three months his lugubrious style, in sharp contest to his predecessor, Michael Forsyth, has been driving mandarins at the Scottish Office quietly mad.

For weeks Robert Gordon, head of the Constitution Unit, and his team were in despair. Mr Dewar's grim countenance and terse reports on Cabinet committee battles over the details of the White Paper suggested he was losing ground to his arch-emeny on devolution, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

It was only when minutes of the meeting were circulated that they realised that Mr Dewar was holding his own and more. They were not used to a political master hiding his light under a bushel.

As today's White Paper will reveal, Mr Dewar has successfully argued against reducing the number of Scottish MPs at Westminister and, for the time being, there will be no cut in the £14.5 billion budget allocated to Scotland. These were the two key fears played on by the outgoing Mr Forsyth before the general election. Mr Dewar, however, has lost the abortion argument. Medical ethics will be dictated by Westminster and the draft White Paper drawn up by the Scottish Office was rewritten in London because it was "too braveheartish". The Union will feature more strongly in the version published today.

> ‘In Glaswegian parlance Donald Dewar has a face like a nippy sweetie’

Mr Dewar has even learnt a thing or two from Mr Forsyth. The date of the referendum, 11 September, is the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's great victory over the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge. An international architectural competition is being launched to design a new Scottish parliament building — another Forsythian touch.

But despite the fact that he is presiding over the biggest constitutional change for Scotland's in 300 years, and is guaranteed a prominent place in Scottish history if he succeeds in creating the parliament, Mr Dewar has suffered in comparisions with his predecessor. He has a brighter and more able team of ministers (all male) than Mr Forsyth had, but they have been accused of taking too leisurely an approach. "Scottish team hits the ground crawling," according to one headline.

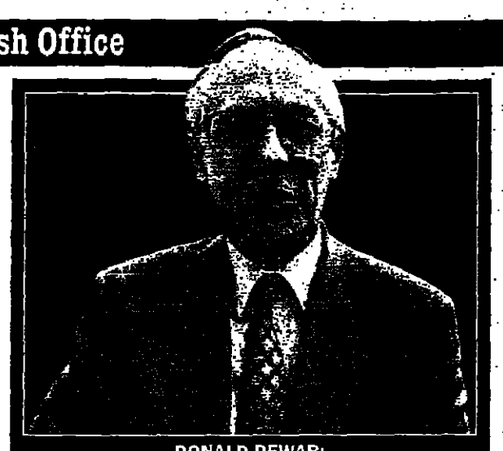
Mr Dewar is genuinely perplexed at this accusation. He has been working round the clock to get the White Paper ready and counters that the last Labour White Paper on home rule took three years to draw up. His has taken three months. He practically caused a security alert at his London office in Dover House when he turned up demanding to be let in to work on a Sunday recently. His 8am to 11pm days at his desk have been broken only to let the removal men take down his predecessor's choice of painting, a portrait of the Old Pretender, James Francis Edward Stewart.

Today he expects to be vindicated when he presents the White Paper at 3.30pm in the House of Commons. The key questions will involve the funding of the Scottish parliament and its tax-raising powers, its relations with Europe, the role of a "Scottish Prime Minister" and the future for the Scottish Office.

As he arrives at Edinburgh Castle for a glittering reception tonight, Mr Dewar will be hoping that he is seen by Scots as the new Wallace delivering freedom rather than the new John Balliol, who sold out his people to Edward I.

Magnus Linklater, page 20

The Scottish Office



DONALD DEWAR: Secretary of State
Aged 59. Gangly, lugubrious solicitor first elected in 1978. Caledonian dourness masks a dry sense of humour and a sharp brain. A right-wing factionalist with an elegant and incisive debating style and a passionate interest in Scottish affairs. Was well regarded as Chief Whip, and has reputation as a workaholic who can win Scottish battles in Cabinet.

HENRY McLEISH: Minister for Home Affairs and Devolution
Aged 49. Professional footballer turned town planner. One of the first of Labour's big Scottish intake of 1987 to reach the front bench as spokesman on Scotland, then unemployment and transport. Won credit from Blair during the election as a party energiser and media manipulator.

SAM GALBRAITH: Minister for Health and the Arts
Aged 51. Consultant neurosurgeon who has bounced back from a lung transplant. A Blairite and strong supporter of devolution. Keen climber who has conquered most of Scotland's difficult peaks. Campaigner for the creation of national parks in Scotland.

BRIAN WILSON: Minister for Education and Industry
Aged 49. Educated, like the late John Smith, at Dunoon Grammar school. Firey Scot and former journalist. Established the *West Highland Free Press*. Anti-devolutionist in 1979, he ran the Labour "vote no" campaign. Scourge of the lairds, he is passionate about land reform.

MALCOLM CHISHOLM: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Transport
Aged 48. Dour leftwinger and former teacher who persistently opposed the Maastricht Bill. Nominated Ken Livingstone as leader of the party in 1992 and has espoused social issues such as increased spending on childcare.

SIR RUSSELL HILLHOUSE: Permanent Secretary
Aged 61. Glaswegian mandarin who joined the Scottish Office in 1962 and has been there ever since apart from a brief spell at the Treasury. Unflappable, experienced old-hand who has seen it all before.

LORD SEWEL: Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries
Aged 51. Principal and dean of the faculty of social sciences and law at Aberdeen University. Cut his political teeth on Aberdeen City Council and is now charged with guiding devolution legislation through the Lords.

The In-Tray

● **Devolution:** legislate for the first Scottish parliament in 300 years and launch an international competition to design a suitable building in Edinburgh. Mandarins favour site beside plush new Scottish Office in Leith. Ministers favour site on the road to Glasgow, where many of them have homes.

● **Education:** cut class sizes to 30 or under for first three years of primary school by using money from the Assisted Places Scheme.

● **Health:** cut NHS waiting lists by releasing 10 million from bureaucracy. Reduce the number of NHS trusts by almost half. Tackle drug deaths through the appointment of a "drugs czar".

● **Transport:** establish a new rail authority combining functions of rail franchiser and central government to provide a programme for rail development.

● **Employment:** get 25,000 young long-term unemployed Scots into work through the Welfare to Work programme.

● **Rural communities:** overhaul the water quangos, create a "green department" in every Scottish Office department, and overhaul the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Councils to regain financial powers

BY ALEX FREAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS should get greater powers to raise more of the money that they spend under a review of local government finance, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Mr Prescott told the annual conference of the Local Government Association in Manchester that council tax bands would also be reviewed. This could lead to better-off homeowners paying more in council tax.

Although there are eight council tax bands, people who own houses in the top band (worth £320,000-plus) have to pay only three times as much council tax as those whose properties fall in the bottom band (worth up to £40,000).

At present, the Government contributes about 80 per cent of the money spent by local authorities. Many in local government would like to see a move towards a 50-50 funding split, with councils taking back the authority to raise business rates.

Mr Prescott shared a platform with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who warned the country's Labour-dominated town halls that they could expect no extra money from central government. In a passionate speech intended to close the rift between central and local government that formed under successive Tory governments, Mr Brown said: "Nearly 20 years of conflict between local and national government are now over — a new era of partnership has begun."

But he told the 1,500 delegates, gathered for the new association's first conference, that Labour had inherited an unforeseen £20 billion "hole" in public finances that needed to be plugged through wealth creation schemes. "Only by being honest about the state of public finances will we be able to plan for the future."

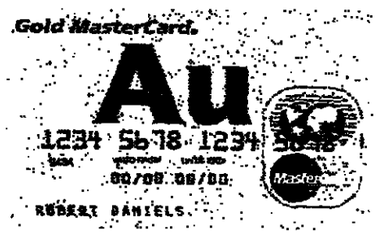
The Chancellor's speech received a mixed reception from town hall chiefs, who earlier heard Sir Jeremy Beecham, chairman of the association, demand an immediate end to capping and a removal of the many outdated and unnecessary restrictions on council decision makers.

Is **Au** right for you?

Are you right for **Au**?

9.9% APR for balance transfers
13.9% APR standard rate
No annual fee
And up to 56 days interest free

Earn at least £20,000
Have a good credit record
Like to keep a balance
Already have a credit card



If you'd like a better kind of credit card, you should apply for Au - a new Gold MasterCard.

Because we're very selective about who gets Au, our cardholders don't subsidise other people's bad debts.

That means you pay just 9.9% APR for the first year on balance transfers, and only 13.9% APR standard rate - so you enjoy excellent value. See below to find out how much you could save.

9.9% APR balance transfers for 12 months
13.9% APR standard rate

So if you think Au is right for you, and you're right for Au, call us free on 0800 000 197 or send back the coupon.

Au. Not everyone gets it. Will you?

Card	Annual Fee	APR	Au saving* over 1 year
Au Gold MasterCard	Nil	9.9%	N/A
Barclays standard Visa	£10	21.4%	£205.60
NatWest standard Visa	£12	20.8%	£195.00
Midland standard MasterCard	£12	20.6%	£192.00
Goldfish MasterCard	Nil	18.9%	£157.20

Call free on **0800 000 197**

Please return to RBS Cards, FREEPOST, RM 1011, Wickford SS11 8BR. Quote Ref: U154
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone (Home Work)

Au MasterCard

RBS Cards Limited Registered Office 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE. Registered in Scotland Number 190 111. A Royal Bank of Scotland Company.

OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS, CONTRACT, CONDITIONS, AVAILABILITY AND CONNECTION CHARGE. HANDS FREE KIT AVAILABLE ON REDEMPTION OF VOUCHER. FULL DETAILS IN STORE.

هكذا من الأصل

Blair shows his strength in portrait taken by Snowdon

Polly Newton on the latest addition to the historic picture gallery of political leadership

TONY BLAIR joins a long and distinguished list today with the publication of his official portrait by the Earl of Snowdon.

Eighty-six years after the first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, was captured for posterity and more than two centuries after Sir Joshua Reynolds painted the first Conservative Prime Minister, the Earl of Bute, Mr Blair has entered history's political picture gallery.

The photograph shows an unsmiling Prime Minister whose face is partly in shadow. It is very similar to the one by Snowdon that was chosen for the front of Labour's election manifesto after voters complained that they had seen too much of Mr Blair's teeth.

Lord Snowdon said yesterday: "I did want to take a serious photograph of him and I thought it was the right thing to do . . . I just thought that if you look at his face, it's a very strong face and I think it's more interesting when he's concentrating."

He said it was hard to judge whether Mr Blair had been comfortable in front of the camera. "I don't think anybody is, or very few. I think to be photographed is not a terribly nice experience."

The picture was taken at Snowdon's gallery in Launceston Place, London, in a session lasting less than an hour. "He was in a rush," the photographer said. "He has got rather more important things to do but he went out of his way to be helpful."

Postcard-sized reproductions will be sent free to Blair admirers who write requesting a picture.

Other political figures photographed by Snowdon include Harold Macmillan, Margaret Thatcher and, more recently, John Major.

Charles Saumarez Smith, director of the National Portrait Gallery and the author of a new book about its collection, said that Mr Blair's choice of photographer was significant. "Going to Snowdon is the way to create a memorable image, one which has iconographic status, rather than just being a straightforward what the person looks like."

He said that the photograph released on Wednesday of William Hague, the Tory leader, was very conventional. "My sense was that it was conservative with a small 'c'. It looked like a very high-class studio portrait. We might well acquire it, but it is not the type of image which we think is especially interesting.

"It did look slightly like the type of image which appears in constituency rooms. It has a slightly Eastern European aspect to it."

The Hague picture, like those of his predecessors, is indeed likely to grace hundreds of Tory association walls although there will be a price to pay. A spokesman for Central Office said that larger versions would sell for about £2 and smaller ones for £1.

Former Prime Ministers have sometimes taken risks with their choice of artist. When Baroness Thatcher was at 10 Downing Street, she repeatedly refused to sit for Helmut Newton, who is better known for his controversial images of semi-naked women than his portraits of politicians. He finally persuaded her after she had left office. The huge, dramatic result hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

Most if not all former Prime Ministers are represented in one form or another in the Palace of Westminster, although there is a ban on any picture or sculpture in the main building of anyone who has been dead for less than ten years. The idea is to give history time to judge who is worthy of a place on its hallowed walls.

Distinguished line-up: Ramsay MacDonald, William Hague and the Earl of Bute are among those who have been captured for posterity

SNOWDON

The official portrait of Tony Blair. "It's a very strong face." Lord Snowdon said

Hague strategy is right but it won't be enough

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

William Hague yesterday delivered a speech of which Tony Blair would have been proud, up to a point. Mr Hague's language, as well as his specific proposals, had many echoes of Mr Blair's when he became Labour leader in 1994. However, Mr Hague's proposals on party organisation are a necessary condition for a Tory recovery, but far from a sufficient one. They omitted the other key element in the Blair strategy, the repositioning on policy.

Learning from Labour's successes is merely good sense. Labour took a long time to accept that its defeats were its fault, not the electorate's. John Smith's main weakness as leader was that he never told his party why it had lost. Mr Blair's main strength was to do so, and jolt his party into making the necessary changes.

Like Mr Blair in 1994, Mr Hague did not disguise the scale of the Tory defeat on May 1. His analysis was stark and honest. As he vividly remarked the party is "not much bigger than a large football club". He recognised how the party organises itself is crucial to its credibility. His ideas — creating a single party with a single constitution; establishing a national membership which will have a voice not just in the election of the leader but also in approving the party's policy platform for the election; a new disciplinary structure; and, most symbolic of all, on publishing major donors to the party and no longer accepting foreign donations — are all sensible, indeed overdue. This is not really democratic any more than Labour's new structure is. It increases the power of the national leadership which consults members and seeks their approval, but does not give them a detailed say in policymaking. There are also loose ends about what is foreign and the financial proposals anticipate likely government legislation.

But the Hague strategy is correct, and the party would be mad to reject it. I am sure they will not, since, like Mr Blair, Mr Hague is offering his party no real choice in this autumn's ballot. He is cannily not only seeking backing for his leadership but also for the principles of reform. That should enable him to push through the detailed proposals over the next year.

The hole in the Hague strategy is policy. It would, of course, be silly, as he recognised yesterday, for the Tories to start setting out their manifesto now, or even detailed policies. That is one of the advantages of opposition. But the party does have to define where it stands in broad terms — on Europe, on reform of the welfare state, the size of the public sector, the extension of choice in education. In contrast to Labour in opposition, Mr Hague said members should "know they are free to think. I want us to have the courage and self-confidence to welcome diversity and debate. I want us to foster an atmosphere of intellectual liberty and renewal." We'll see.

An initial test is the front bench's reaction to government proposals. So far this has been mixed. By chance, just as Mr Hague was speaking, Stephen Dorrell was giving the Tory reply to the government statement on higher education. As some furious Labour leftwingers, and the former Education Secretary and Labour deputy leader Lord Glenamara (Ted Short) argued, David Blunkett is ending the post-war approach of student grants for all. This is inevitable given the rise in student numbers. A re-elected Tory Government would have done much the same. But Mr Dorrell's response was carping and negative, in contrast to the more positive tone of a number of former Tory education ministers.

If the Tories are to look credible, they not only need to reorganise themselves along the lines Mr Hague suggested yesterday, they also have to sound convincing on policy. They do not remotely do so yet.

PETER RIDDELL

CAR INSURANCE

Looking for the LOWEST premium?

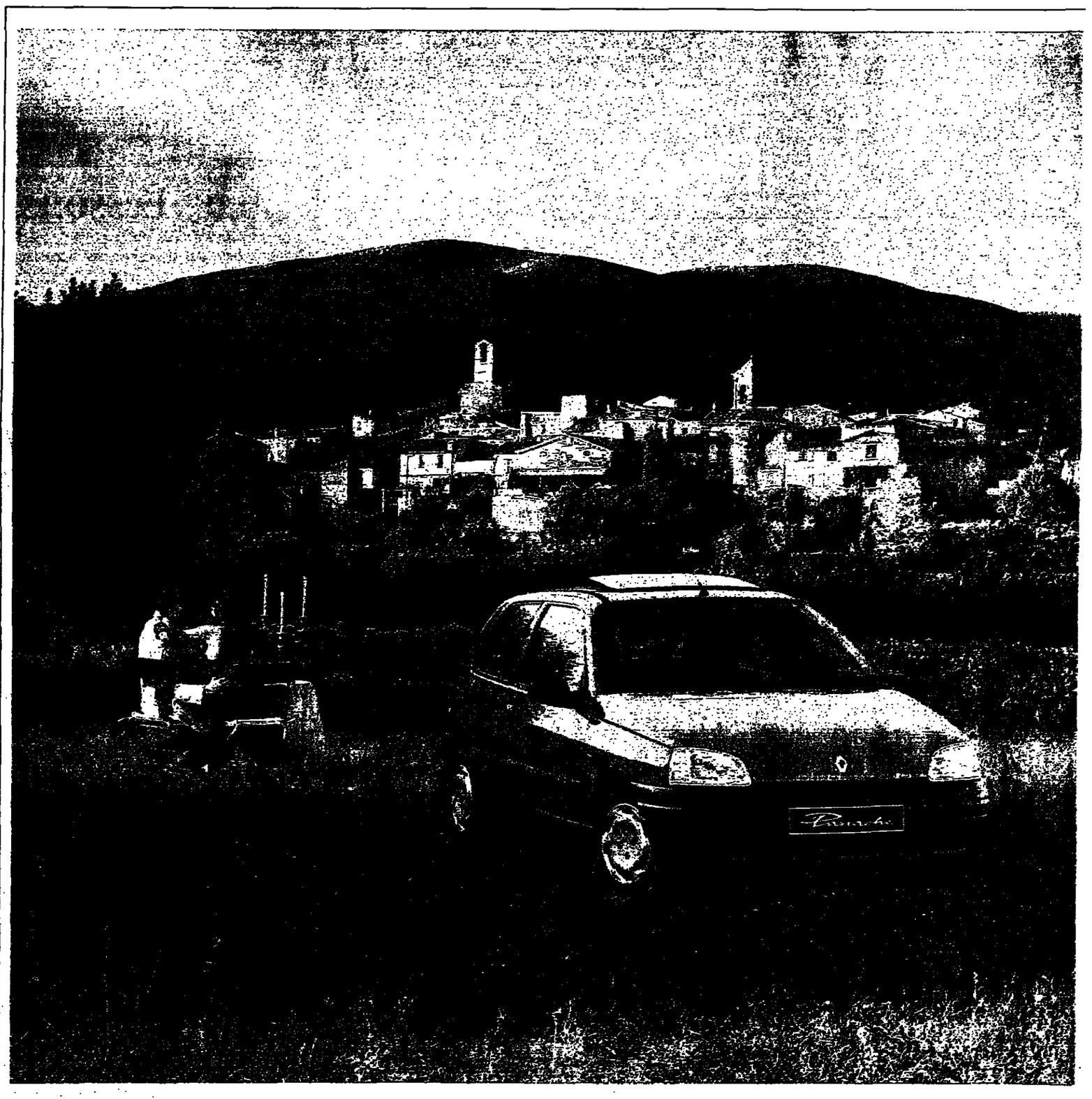
Exclusive Road Atlas FREE with every quote

PHONE FREE 0500 333 600

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE ROAD ATLAS PLEASE QUOTE REF 8582

LINES ARE OPEN 8am-8pm WEEKDAYS, 9am-5pm SATURDAYS.

DIAL DIRECT



THE NEW RENAULT CLIO PANACHE. £7,895.
YOU'VE EITHER GOT IT OR YOU HAVEN'T.

Just what is it that makes the new special edition Renault Clio Panache so irresistible?

Well, all those thrilling little touches for a start. From its tilt-and-slide sunroof to its 5-speed gearbox, from its tinted glass to its Philips stereo radio/cassette, the Panache never seems to settle for conformity.

Then there are its strong, silent qualities. Side impact protection bars, front seat belt pretensioners and the option of both driver's and passenger's airbags mean you can appreciate it in safety. While thanks to a computer padlock engine immobiliser it's safe when you're not in it too.

But does all this explain the magic of the Panache, or its even more alluring cousin the Clio Provence? Of course not. Such things can't really be explained – only experienced.

TYPICAL EXAMPLE		Panache 1.2 3-dr	Provence 1.2 3-dr
Cash price (inc. on the road costs)††		£7,895.00	£8,995.00
0%	Deposit	£3,947.48	£4,497.40
	Monthly Repayments	£328.96x12	£374.80x12
	Total Credit Price	£7,995.00	£8,995.00

That's why it's good to know that both the Panache and the Provence are available with 0% finance and free insurance (which, unlike most comparable offers, covers up to five drivers).

In fact, with Renault Freeways† available too, buying a new Renault has never been so easy. If you'd like more information and details of your nearest Renault Dealer, just call on 0800 52 51 50. And you've got it.

RENAULT FREEWAYS

RENAULT

WITH 0% FINANCE AND ONE YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE

All Renault Clios have a 12-month unlimited mileage warranty with free RAC membership plus an 8-year anti-corrosion warranty and Renault Accident Services facility. ††Prices correct at time of going to press include 17.5% VAT and "key-in hand" charge which covers delivery to the dealer, number plates, security window etching and 12 months' Government road fund licence. Other goods or services supplied by agreement between the customer and dealer are not included. †Finance offers (subject to status) apply to any new Renault Clio Panache or Provence ordered and registered by 31st August 1997. Written quotations available on request. Credit facilities provided and arranged by BFS Ltd., City Road, Chester K CH99 3AN. ‡Free comprehensive insurance available on any new Renault Panache or Provence purchased and registered by 31st August 1997. Must be aged between 17-75 and hold a current UK or Irish (Northern Ireland only) driving licence with no disqualifications within the last 5 years, no driving convictions or offences pending as detailed in the policy, subject to conditions. See your Renault dealer for details. This advertisement is placed on behalf of the vehicle importer Renault UK Ltd., Widewater Place, Uxbridge UB8 6RT, and not individual franchise holders. RENAULT recommended elf

Pay as you earn tuition to begin within 14 months

REPORTS BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

FUNDING

STUDENTS will face tuition fees for full-time university courses within 14 months, after yesterday's publication of the first major review of higher education in three decades.

Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's senior education adviser, issued a 1,700-page report calling for a new "compact" involving students, business and the Government to raise investment in universities and colleges. All would have to contribute more to preserve the world-class status of British higher education.

Universities would face a cash crisis unless they were assured of the money to be raised from new student fees, Sir Ron said in the report. Projected budget cuts would endanger the quality of teaching and research.

State funding for each student has declined by 40 per cent since 1976 and is planned to drop by another 6.5 per cent during the next two years. Vice-chancellors estimate that they face a funding shortfall of £3 billion by the end of the century.

Sir Ron found limited scope for further economies. "We have concluded that institutions should be able to manage a 1 per cent a year real reduction in funding per student over the next two years: a 6.5 per cent reduction would damage quality."

Dearing yesterday: aim is to protect quality

The review examined a series of options for graduate contributions. Sir Ron conceded that none of the four models he had considered in detail would meet the universities' short-term needs, but said all political parties had made it clear that no extra cash could be expected from taxation.

"There can be no more money from the students because they haven't got any; we don't believe there should be more money from parents. The right option is contributions from graduates on an income-contingent basis, as their earnings rise," Sir Ron said yesterday.

He acknowledged that many would see tuition fees as an unwelcome precedent. "To them I say there is a precedent for contribution to tuition fees in higher education. It is well established among 380,000 part-time and a further 370,000 postgraduate students, who already pay fees."

The report proposed safeguards against any future increase in the 25 per cent contribution to course costs represented by fees of £1,000 a year. An independent review should be commissioned, and both Houses of Parliament be required to support an increase. Fees would be the same for all courses to protect the position of expensive subjects such as engineering.

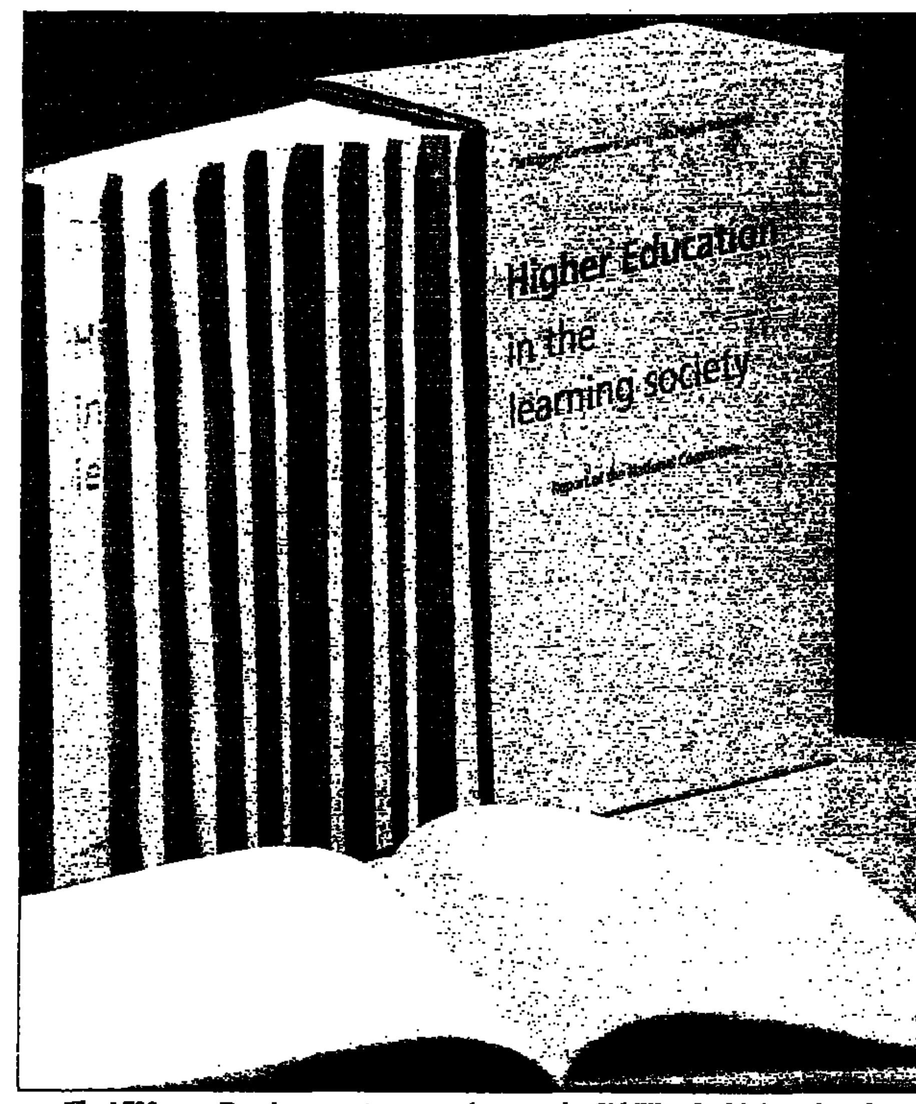
Sir Ron said graduates should make a contribution because a degree still offered a "very good return" in terms of earnings potential. "Our proposed option would raise about £1 billion, approximately half the extra income required in 20 years' time. Government should increase its contribution to make up the rest as the economy grows."

Details of the Government's preferred scheme, scrapping maintenance grants and means-testing fees, will be worked out over the summer. Officials said that the yield for higher education would be greater but refused to say when universities would begin to reap the benefits.

Under the Government's proposals, students from poor backgrounds would leave university with more debt than those from more affluent families — about £10,300 compared with just over £8,000. But the Government scheme is likely to spread payments over 20 years, assuming graduates earn more than £10,000, instead of the ten years proposed by Sir Ron's committee.

The present level of parental contributions and zero interest rates for student loans will remain fixed under the Government's plans. Fees will be waived for students whose parents earn less than about £18,000, with a sliding scale up to a maximum parental income of about £36,000. Extra loans will enable students to meet the costs.

David Blunkett, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21



The 1,700-page Dearing report sets out plans to raise £1 billion for higher education

Universities told to regulate degree quality

STANDARDS

THE Government will have to take direct control of higher education standards unless universities introduce reforms, Sir Ron Dearing said.

His report puts the onus on the universities' newly-established Quality Assurance Agency to produce clear "threshold standards" for degrees, a national system of external examiners, and codes of practice in every institution. The report sets a target date of 2000 for the first of the changes.

The committee urges universities and colleges to "embrace vigorously" the standards agenda, which Sir Ron sees as the heart of his review. "New systems for the assurance of quality and standards must be in place and seen to be effective within a short space of time. If they are not, the Government will be justified in intervening to protect the interests of students."

British higher education has maintained its world standing despite doubling the number of students and having to make repeated economies, the report says. But the quality of degrees is variable.

"Given the large increase in the number of students taking degrees over the last 20 years, and a marked increase in the proportion awarded first or upper second-class honours, many think that it is not plausible to say that standards have not declined," the report says. "There is also a widely held view that standards are not uniform and cannot be in a mass system."

Sir Ron expresses concern about the growing practice of "franchising" teaching on university degrees to further education colleges. A small number of institutions have also fallen below acceptable standards in overseas operations.

The report says that further education colleges should concentrate on sub-degree programmes and there should be no growth in the number of degrees they offer. Franchise arrangements should comply with tougher criteria set by the quality agency by 2001.

Teaching standards would be raised by a professional qualification overseen by a new Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Financial incentives would encourage universities to place more value on teaching skills. A poll of academics found that only 3 per cent thought good teaching was reflected in their pay structure, while 63 per cent thought it should be.

There is little encouragement for those who favour an Ivy League of top universities with enhanced funding. The report says there should be no sudden changes in the structure of higher education, adding that institutions do not fit easily into neat categories.

Student places should be extended immediately

EXPANSION

THE expansion of higher education, which saw student numbers double in less than ten years, should restart immediately, Sir Ron Dearing recommended yesterday. But the main growth should come in one- and two-year courses.

Sir Ron's report suggests that demand for university and college places will continue to grow. He proposes that the present 30 per cent of young people going on to higher education should rise to about 45 per cent, a proportion already nearly reached in Scotland.

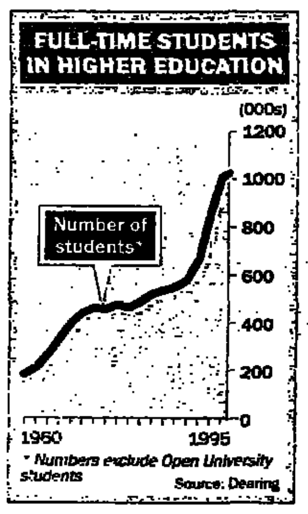
Business leaders and universities have urged renewed growth, citing the pressure of international competition. Britain lags behind the United States, Japan and other Far Eastern countries in the number of young people going on to higher education, although the three-year degree and relatively low drop-out rate ensure that the proportion of graduates in the population is among the world's highest.

The expansion should focus on courses below degree level and on postgraduate programmes. The Government is urged to remove its cap on recruitment to sub-degree courses from September, and the limits on degree recruitment during the next two to three years. Extra funding should be given to institutions that can "demonstrate a commitment to widening participation". The committee has also published reports on attracting more women, ethnic minorities, disabled people and those from low-income groups.

Under Sir Ron's plans, further and higher education would offer multiple entrance and exit points "with honour". Students would be encouraged to take certificate or diploma courses, which could lead to a degree or have currency in the employment market. Responding to calls from employers, Sir Ron recommends an increase in work experience, making it the norm for all students.

Within the 20-year timescale covered by the report, increasing use of information technology will lead to far more students taking courses from home or at work. In five years all students should have access to a networked computer provided by the university or college, the report suggests.

Sir Ron recommends that another higher-education review should take place in five years to take account of the speed of change in technology.



Lessons taught by Scotland

ROLE MODEL

SIR RON DEARING and his 16-strong inquiry team travelled the world in search of models for higher education — and found one in Scotland.

The qualities that Sir Ron was seeking for England, Wales and Northern Ireland — greater breadth of education and higher levels of participation — are all in evidence north of the border. He considers it no coincidence that a greater respect for learning is also ingrained in the national culture.

A separate committee has produced a series of recommendations for Scottish higher education, including a shift away from its most distinctive characteristic: the four-year degree. But the main report makes frequent references to the lessons to be learnt by the rest of Britain.

Even Sir Ron's target of 45 per cent of young people in higher education was taken directly from Scotland, where almost that percentage already stays in education beyond school. The English equivalent is just over 30 per cent. Better still, in Sir Ron's eyes, a high proportion of Scots take college-based certificate or diploma courses, rather than degrees. And even some of those who opt for university take ordinary degrees, rather than the longer honours course.

The parallel is not exact because most students north of the border go to university a year earlier than in England, but the first year of Scottish degrees, which involves studying general subjects, is another attraction for Sir Ron. The fact that 95 per cent of Scots choose to study in their own country is seen as a further indication of high quality.

Many of the same characteristics were evident in Japan, where Sir Ron made a brief visit.

OFFER ENDS 12 10 97 ON LINES INSTALLED BY 9 11 97. FOR EXAMPLE, CONNECTION TO BT'S ISDN START-UP PACKAGE COSTS JUST £119.00 (EX VAT). QUARTERLY LINE RENTAL £133.75 (EX VAT) INCLUSIVE CALL ALLOWANCE OF £105 PA. MINIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD 2 YEARS

ORDINARY
current accounts
pay you token interest

This is
NO ORDINARY
current account

	Interest rate, gross per annum
Alliance Account	3.00%
Barclays - Bank Account	0.30%
Lloyds - Classic	0.50%
NatWest - Current Plus	0.25%

Source: Moneyfacts, June 1997. All rates gross p.a., quoted on balances of £5000 or more.

- Credit interest of up to 3.0% gross p.a.
- 24 hour telephone banking, 365 days a year
- Low overdraft rates of 0.76% per month (EAR 9.50% variable) with no monthly fee or set up charge
- Access to your money through around 350 branches, 20,000 Post Offices and almost 12,000 LINK cash machines
- Plus, we'll add £30 to your balance when you open and fund your account

24hr BANKING Call FREE 0500 95 95 95

Quoting reference N142

Don't settle for token interest from your existing current account.

Switch to the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester and you will earn up to 3.0% gross p.a. when you are in credit. As you can see from our commitment to 24 hour service, low overdraft rates and our offer of £30 added to your balance, the Alliance Account is no ordinary current account.

Switching is simple

We will even help with the paperwork to make switching your account easy. For more details and an application form, complete and return the coupon below or call us FREE on 0500 95 95 95 now, quoting reference N142.

To welcome you to the Alliance Account
WE'LL ADD £30 TO YOUR BALANCE
Apply before 31 August 1997

Please send me more information about the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester plc. (Please use BLOCK CAPITALS.)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ______ Initials ______
Surname ______
Address ______
______ Postcode ______
Tel. No. (Home) ______ (Work) ______
Date of birth ___/___/___
Are you an Alliance & Leicester customer? Yes ☐ No ☐

Return to: Alliance & Leicester plc, FREEPOST (LS9148), Leeds LS2 8AL
N142

ALLIANCE LEICESTER
No ordinary current account

All applicants must be aged 18 or over, and agree to make an initial minimum deposit of £300 into their account. Applications, including the £100 cheque guarantee card and overdraft, are subject to status. Written quotations available on request. Interest will be paid net of income tax at the rate determined by the Inland Revenue, or, subject to the required registration, gross. The gross rate of interest quoted does not take account of deduction of income tax. The rate of 3.0% gross p.a. is payable on balances of £5,000 or more. Credit interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt, up to and including the day before withdrawal, except for deposits made by cheque where interest is calculated from the fourth working day following receipt at the clearance centre. Interest rates are variable. Overdrafts are repayable on demand. Rates quoted apply to authorised overdrafts. To qualify for this promotion, applications must be received by 31 August 1997. After you fund your account with salary or credit of at least £300 by 31 October 1997, £30 will be credited to your account within 28 days. For security and training, telephone calls between you and the Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1

This will make us the envy of the world, says report's youngest voice

Wright: teachers' son

By Simon de Bruxelles

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

SIMON WRIGHT is remarkably cheerful for a students' union official about to be accused of helping to bury the cherished principle of free higher education for all. As student representative on the Dearing Committee he had a unique responsibility and had to make the "toughest, most soul-searching decisions" of his life. Hardest of all was the question of funding.

In the end, he said, it boiled down to equality of opportunity: "If you are working class and from the valleys of South Wales, your prospects of going on to higher education are one eighth those of someone from a middle-class family in the Home Counties. Taken as a whole, the recommendations will give Britain a system of higher education that will be the envy of the world, and which really will be open to all.

"What we are asking graduates to do is to contribute something in return for the benefit they have received from higher education. Across a lifetime, graduates' earnings are 11 to 14 per cent higher than their contemporaries'."

Mr Wright, 24, a students' union official with a degree in law and sociology from the University of Wales, Cardiff, was the youngest of the committee's 18 members by a considerable margin. If he felt intimidated by colleagues who included vice-chancellors and distinguished educationalists, he has not admitted it. The report occupied three or four days a week for more than a year. He sat on three working groups, attended discussion meetings around the country and is satisfied that his views are accurately reflected. "Every recommendation and, in fact, every page of the report reflects the students' view," he said.

"At first it was a vertical learning curve but, although it was hard work, it was an incredible experience. I am someone who was given the opportunity to represent students on a committee that will affect students, the higher education system and to some extent the country for a number of years to come, and I feel very privileged. I did the best job I could, which involved some of the toughest, most soul-searching decisions I have ever had to take."

It was the committee's strict remit to stay within government spending limits that dictated the direction it took on tuition fees. He said: "It was made clear right at the start that there would be no more money for higher education. My priority was to get the best possible deal for students within the remits of the comittee."

The son of teachers from Bristol, and shortly to start a job in London, Mr Wright is well prepared for the likely reaction from his student contemporaries. He said: "The NUS has a clear policy on funding and I'm sure its views will be expressed loudly and clearly. But anyone taking the issue of funding on its own is missing the broader picture. The report contains 93 recommendations and they have to be seen in their totality."

The 'fixer' whose final deal may come unstuck

The call for change in Sir Ron Dearing's swansong report risks being lost amid disapproval over tuition charges, says ***John O'Leary***

SIR RON DEARING resents the label of "fixer" he has acquired after a succession of educational rescue missions. Yesterday's report — his first and last for new political masters — is intended not only as a swansong, but as proof that he has vision.

As if to show that his review of higher education is different, Sir Ron's key recommendation on student grants has been rejected. The 66-year-old former civil servant will not be sorry to have some of the opprobrium lifted from his shoulders, but he is anxious that the issue should not obscure the wider agenda.

Academics still talk wistfully of the Robbins Report, which launched the higher education expansion of the 1960s. A more prescient government would have repeated the exercise before the even steeper growth of the 1980s. The committee's room for manoeuvre was severely limited as a result.

The danger for Sir Ron is that he will be remembered as the man who not only paved the way for the abolition of free higher education, but who began to limit access to courses. Such a verdict would be cruel, for the committee had to sanction charges and has seen its carefully crafted compromise overturned.

The inquiry was established to justify charging for higher education and keep the matter out of the general election. Universities need up to £3 billion more by 2000, and no government would find that from the public purse.

But Sir Ron's report is about more than money: it starts from first principles and keeps them in view through 1,700 pages of argument. His aim is to safeguard the quality of higher education, and bring recognition to the undervalued business of teaching.

If he can succeed in this, Sir Ron's legacy to future generations of students will be greater than introducing tuition fees. It is a big "if", however, depending on a series of far-sighted decisions by universities and Government, as well as a change of attitude from students and their families.

The largely unplanned switch to a system of mass higher education, catering for 30 per cent and perhaps eventually 45 per cent of young people, has been accompanied by an almost perverse emphasis on research, rather than teaching. That is where the money is for universities, and academic priorities have to match.

New qualifications for lecturers, accredited external examiners and financial rewards for good teaching will not come cheaply. And agreement on "threshold standards" for degrees will not come easily.

Without such changes, however, more may mean worse. As Sir Ron implies, some higher education is already poor and many students ill-equipped for its demands. If universities are allowed to cherry-pick from the 93 recommendations, the decline could well accelerate.

MISSION STATEMENT

Four fundamental purposes of higher education are given by the Dearing committee:

☐ To inspire and enable individuals to develop to their highest potential throughout life, so they grow intellectually, are well-equipped for work, and can achieve fulfilment.

☐ To play a major role in shaping a democratic, civilised and inclusive society.

☐ To increase knowledge and understanding for their own sake and to foster their application to the benefit of the economy and society.

☐ To serve the needs of an adaptable, knowledge-based economy.

NEWS TEAM BIRMINGHAM

Gardner: debt fears "will deter mature students"

How the report affects three on the steps to higher learning

CASE STUDIES

Jim Gardner, 26, has just graduated as a mature student from La Sainte Union College of Higher Education in Southampton with a 2:1 in Politics and American History (Mark Henderson writes). He owes £1,800 to the Student Loans Company, has a further £1,800 overdraft, and owes £300 to his mother. He had a full grant while at university, and borrowed and worked to make ends meet, including doing a part-time job during his first year. His parents are divorced, and he is not in contact with his father. His mother earns £11,000 a year. Under Dearing, a student in Mr Gardner's situation would have to take out a loan to pay tuition fees of £1,000 a year. He would keep a full grant, worth £1,755 for a student living outside London and outside the parental home. He would also be able to draw a loan worth £1,685 (£1,290 if he lived at home). This would shrink to £1,230 (£945) in his final year. Under the Government's response to Dearing, the grant would be phased out and replaced by a loan worth £3,440. Mr Garner would avoid tuition fees because his family's residual income is less than £16,000. He forecast: "The thought of being in debt for years is going to deter many mature students, especially with children."

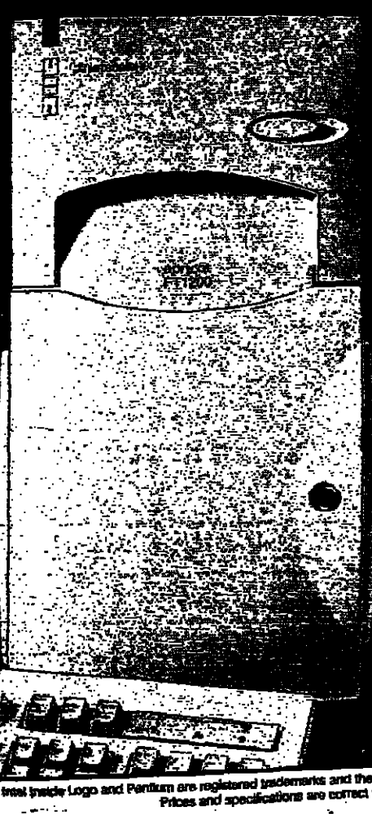
Andrew Smith, 25, graduated recently from Newcastle University with a 2:1 in English and religious education. He owes £2,000 to the Student Loans Company and has a £2,500 overdraft. He had a full grant and earned money during the holidays. His twin, Adrian, went through university at the same time. His mother cares full time for his elder sister, who has cerebral palsy, and his father is a civil servant earning £18,000. Under Dearing, Andrew Smith, of Prudhoe, Northumberland, would have taken out a loan to pay tuition fees of £1,000 a year and in the next academic year have kept his full grant of £1,755 for a student living outside London and away from home. If he lived at home, he would have had a grant of £1,435. He could also draw a loan worth £1,685 (£1,290 if living at home). This would shrink to £1,230 (£945) in his final year. Under the Government's response to Dearing, students from households with a residual income of more than £16,000, after housing costs, would pay some of their tuition fees under a sliding scale. As Mr Smith's household income is £18,000, the size of his parents' rent or mortgage would determine whether he contributed. His grant would disappear but he could claim a maintenance loan of £3,440 when the new scheme is fully operational in 1999/2000.

David Tan, 20, has just finished his first year at Keble College, Oxford, where he is reading economics and management. He does not get a maintenance grant but he has taken out a student loan of £1,500 and he gets £3,000 a year from his parents to pay for rent, food and books. He also makes about £8,000 a year from a multimedia company he set up with three friends, for which he works in the holidays. His father is a manager of a manufacturing firm, earning about £50,000 a year. He has two older brothers and an elder sister who have all been through university, and one brother is still studying at Imperial College, London. Under Dearing a student in Mr Tan's position would pay £1,000 in tuition fees because his family's residual income exceeds £34,000. He would not be affected by the phasing-out of grants, but might be forced to pay Oxford University top-up fees, possibly totalling £1,000, if the college fee that funds the unversity is cut as proposed. Mr Tan said he thought his parents would have picked up the tab for tuition fees. "I would have taken out the loan to pay them as that works out cheaper, but my parents would have ended up payng it off," he said. "What would really have made a diference is top-up fees. That would have made me think twice."

UNRIVALLED IN ITS CLASS. THE APRICOT FT1200 SERVER.

"On the benchmark, the Mitsubishi (Apricot) was the fastest server in the review. We were particularly impressed by the hard-disk benchmark, a third quicker than the Dell."

- PC PLUS
PERFORMANCE AWARD



In a recent review of servers by PC Plus - that included equivalent models from Compaq, Dell, Fujitsu, Hewlett Packard and Viglen - Mitsubishi Electric's Apricot FT1200 won the overall accolade for best performance.

In fact, it scored an unbeatable ten out of ten.

It also scored a nine for value, making it a winner on the two criteria we know are most important to customers.

A glance at the two sample specs we've included here quickly proves why: the Apricot FT1200 boasts performance, storage and security features normally associated with top-end servers - at prices more usually associated with desktops.

Value which is considerably enhanced by the backing of our own nationwide network of accredited systems specialists.

So carry out your own review by calling us now for an information pack.

☑ Intel 200MHz Pentium® Pro Processor
☑ 32Mb ECC Memory
☑ 2Gb UltraWide SCSI disk
☑ 3C900 PCI Ethernet card
☑ 8 speed CD-ROM drive
☑ Integrated server management
☑ Lockable fixed disks & exchangeable areas
☑ Four dedicated hard disk drive bays
☑ RAID and UPS options†

£1,899+ VAT (£2,232)

Specification as above but with:

☑ 64Mb ECC Memory
☑ 4Gb UltraWide SCSI disk

£2,399+ VAT (£2,819)

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
APRICOT PCs & SERVERS

CALL NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
0800 212 422

Web address: www.winner.apricot.co.uk/tm
e-mail address: hotline@apricot.mee.com

The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and the Pentium Processor Logo and the Pentium Pro Processor Logo are trademarks of Intel Corporation.
Prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. E+OE. †RAID and UPS at additional cost.

CASH FOR QUESTIONS.

power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

Applying for an unsecured loan from Mercantile Credit really is straightforward, whether you're borrowing £500 or £15,000.

Take the test opposite – with a score of 12 or more, it's well worth calling us about a Mercantile Credit loan. But even if you have a score of 11 or less, we'll take all your personal circumstances into account when you call to apply.

Your monthly repayments are fixed, and we'll give you up to seven years to pay us back.

You don't need any deposit or security. We guarantee a quick decision. And we're open every day from 7am to 11pm.

So now you've completed our 5 easy questions we have just one more – why not call us free now?

PHONE FOR A FAST LOAN – QUOTING REF 4839

0800 111 777

OR, COMPLETE THE COUPON OPPOSITE.

BARCLAYS BANK PLC TRADING AS MERCANTILE CREDIT. REGISTERED OFFICE 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH. REGISTERED IN ENGLAND REG NO 1026167. BARCLAYS BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF THE BANKING OMBUDSMAN SCHEME. LOANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO PERSONS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE. SUBJECT TO STATUS. PLEASE NOTE SOME CALLS MAY BE RECORDED OR MONITORED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. MERCANTILE CREDIT, FREEPOST, PO BOX 281, LIVERPOOL L69. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THIS ADDRESS. TYPICAL EXAMPLE LOAN OF £8,000 REPAID OVER 84 MONTHS WITH PAYMENT PROTECTOR PLAN. PREMIUM £1,711.19. MONTHLY REPAYMENT £142.48. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £12,473.02. THE APR IS FIXED AT 18.9%. SECOND TYPICAL EXAMPLE LOAN OF £10,000 REPAID OVER 36 MONTHS WITHOUT PAYMENT PROTECTOR PLAN. MONTHLY REPAYMENT £337.74. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £12,158.64. THE APR IS FIXED AT 13.9%.

MERCANTILE CREDIT CHECK

1. How old are you?			Score
under 25	over 25		
0	3		

2. Where do you live?					Score
With parents	Rent furnished	Rent unfurnished	Own mortgaged	Own outright	
1	2	3	4	5	

3. How long have you lived there?					Score
Under 2 years	2-4 years	5-8 years	9-14 years	15 years or more	
1	2	3	4	5	

4. What do you earn a year?				Score
£10,000+	£15,000+	£20,000+		
1	2	3		

5. How long have you been with your current employer?					Score
Under 2 years	2-4 years	5-8 years	Over 9 years		
1	2	4	5		

This test is for your information only. It does not necessarily reflect the weight we give to any factor. It does not include many of the factors considered in evaluating a loan request such as payment history and your ability to service your monthly obligations. Final loan approval is not guaranteed by any score on this list.

Total Score

MERCANTILE CREDIT

Please empower me today by sending me details of your direct personal loans. (Send completed coupon to Mercantile Credit, PO Box 117, FREEPOST SEA 0521, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2BR. No stamp required.)

Name 4839

Address

Postcode Telephone

Berisha quits but vows to stay in Albanian politics

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MORE than two weeks after his landslide defeat in the Albanian general election, President Berisha resigned yesterday.

In a letter to the new legislature, which was meeting for the first time, he announced his "irrevocable resignation" as head of state, but said he would continue to take part in parliamentary life.

His departure came as international pressure grew on him to accept the defeat of his Government by the opposition Socialist Party. The news was greeted with celebratory gunfire in Tirana and the southern port of Vlore and neighbouring towns where the revolt against his Government began.

Mr Berisha blamed his downfall on the fraudulent pyramid schemes in which more than half the country invested and which left thousands destitute. Describing it, with some understatement, as a "negative phenomenon of our governing", he accused former Communists of exploiting the issue and using it as a pretext to foment rebellion.

With strong clan support from the north of Albania, Mr Berisha, 55, a former heart surgeon, made it clear that he was not retiring from politics. He said Albanians would have a chance to weigh up the balance between the five years of democracy — meaning his own rule — and the five months of rebellion.

His successor is expected to be Rexhep Mejdani, 52, the general secretary of the Socialist Party. The Socialists won 118 of the parliament's 155 seats, leaving Mr Berisha's Democrats with only 24.

Mr Berisha, a fluent English-speaker, was initially given warm support by the West, which was impressed by Albania's market reforms. But his rule was marred by widespread accusations of fraud and his reliance on secret police.

Three years ago, Albania had one of the highest growth rates in Europe. But criminal organisations and mafia gangs flourished and corruption was widespread. The suspected links between some of the pyramid scheme bosses and the Democratic Party led to demonstrations after the organisers fled and thousands were left bankrupt. More than 1,000 people were killed in subsequent rioting and looting.

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE / AP

Employees of the Museum of Monuments, which is housed in the Chaillot Palace in Paris, inspect damage caused by Tuesday night's fire

Archives survive £5m Paris fire

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

VALUABLE collections of cinematic and architectural monuments escaped largely unscathed when fire swept across the roof of the vast Chaillot Palace near the Eiffel Tower, causing an estimated £5 million damage, museum officials said yesterday.

The spectacular fire destroyed at least 43,000 sq ft of roof before it was finally brought under control in the early hours of yesterday by more than 200 firefighters from around Paris. Two firemen were slightly injured battling the blaze.

The damaged wing of the white stone palace, which was undergoing renovation to the roof near where the fire broke out on Tuesday night, contains the Cinema Museum, housing 30,000 films as well as props, posters, costumes and other cinema artefacts, and the Museum of Monuments, detailing the architectural history of France's most celebrated buildings.

Guy Cogeval, the museums' director, said that despite some water and smoke damage the impact on the collections was "relatively limited".

Initial evidence suggested the fire was accidental. A series of detonations heard when it started may have been caused by acetylene lamps left by workmen, exploding glass or by bottled chemicals in the museum igniting, a spokesmen for the Paris fire department said.

The monuments museum includes plans and models of such important buildings as Notre Dame cathedral in Paris and the cathedral at Chartres.

Catherine Trautmann, the Minister for Culture, suggested that the fire may have been accidentally started by workmen and had apparently been smouldering for several hours, explaining the scale of the blaze.

"An investigation is under way. It appears there was soldering work being done during the day," Mme Trautmann said.

About one hundred casts of Gothic religious sculptures were damaged by flooding from firefighters' hoses, and parts of the two collections were removed to safety yesterday to avoid falling debris. By good luck, many of the more valuable pieces from the monuments collection had been rehoused in recent weeks, prior to a reorganisation of the museum.

"We feared there had been serious damage, but in the end the structure held together," M Cogeval said.

Gingrich move to quell rebellion

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH made a dramatic attempt to reassert his authority on Capitol Hill yesterday, deflecting the attacks of rebels who had attempted to topple him as House Speaker and insisting that he was still in charge.

Republicans at a closed caucus meeting said he had been cheered three or four times and given thunderous applause after a speech designed to unite a fractured party in the House of Representatives.

Mark Foley, a Florida congressman, described the botched coup attempt as an embarrassment but said the party expected no immediate changes in leadership.

"Mr Gingrich outlined that he is the Speaker, that there is a single line of authority and he is it. We welcome him back," Mr Foley said.

Mr Gingrich had already signalled that he wants no changes to the Republican hierarchy in the House, despite concerns over Dick Armey, the majority leader, Tom DeLay, the Republican whip, and John Boehner, the conference chairman, who are thought to have been behind the coup attempt.

None of the men would comment after yesterday's meeting, but they were expected to make statements at another session scheduled for last night. However, neither silence nor denials are likely to appease Gingrich loyalists who were calling for accounts of their part in the coup.

"They are always preaching to us about teamwork and working together, and it's very apparent they have not been doing that themselves," said Ray LaHood, a Republican congressman from Illinois.

Those close to Mr Gingrich believe internecine fighting will prevent any further challenge to his authority before deals are struck with the White House on a balanced budget plan. Aides said that might change after the August recess.

Yeltsin challenged

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN opposition leaders said yesterday that they were confident they could over-ride President Yeltsin's veto of a controversial Bill aimed at limiting the activities of religious minorities in Russia.

Mr Yeltsin announced late on Tuesday night that he would not sign the Bill despite overwhelming approval by both houses of parliament.

He said it had been a difficult decision, "but many articles in the Bill infringe the basic rights and freedoms of the citizen, establish inequality of different confessions and contradict Russia's international obligations." The President proposed a list of amendments that would have limited the rights of groups such as Baptists, Mormons and Pentacostalists.

Communist Party leaders in the state Duma said that his decision showed Russia's interests were being trampled underfoot by the West.

☐ Good health: Mr Yeltsin said yesterday that his heart "works like a clock". On holiday in central Russia, he said: "I feel well and I am having a good rest." *(Reuter)*

aged 60 or over?

Quality private healthcare is still affordable. Even without tax relief.

If you're worried about the price of private healthcare after tax relief was abolished in the July budget, PPP healthcare could help you.

We are one of the largest healthcare providers, with over 50 years' experience and a wide range of quality private healthcare plans to suit all budgets. In fact, research shows that our cover is amongst the most competitive for people aged 60 or over.

All our plans provide you with immediate access to private in-patient treatment whenever you need it. And that's more important than ever before – because NHS waiting lists, which already stand at more than 1 million, could rise by another 100,000 due simply to the withdrawal of tax relief.

If you already have tax relief on your private healthcare, you won't lose it until your next renewal date after 2nd July 1997. So you should certainly not rush to cancel your current policy now. But there's nothing to lose by finding out now how PPP healthcare can give you the value you want at a price you can afford.

If your healthcare plan is due for renewal in the next 3 months (and you're not already with PPP healthcare), call us today on **0800 33 55 55** for an immediate personal quotation, without obligation.

Even if your current policy has more than 3 months until its renewal, send us details using the coupon below, and we'll send you a personal quotation nearer your renewal date.

0800 33 55 55 Ref. 6554

A 5% discount for annual payment. (8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-1pm Saturdays.) Calls may be recorded.

Send for a free no-obligation quotation and full PPP healthcare information pack now to: PPP healthcare, FREEPOST, Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 1LH. Ref. 6554

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)_____ Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone No. (Day)_____ (Evening)_____

Date of Birth __/__/__ *(important: we cannot give you a quotation without this date.)*

Name of other adult to be included _____

Date of Birth __/__/__ Number of children under 21 to be included____

If you already have a current healthcare policy, who is it with?

_____

When is your renewal date?_____

I WOULD PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE PROMOTIONAL MAILINGS FROM OTHER COMPANIES ☐

PPP healthcare™

there to support you

Red tape tripped up SAS in Bosnia

Legal delays and buck-passing let war crime suspects get away

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH forces in Bosnia came within minutes of seizing three indicted war criminals last March, but the snatch operation was called off because insecure communications gave the game away.

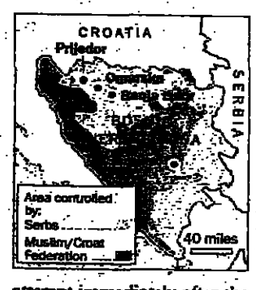
A British army unit, with SAS back-up, went into Prijedor on the morning of March 14 to arrest Simo Drljaca and Milan Kovacevic, the police chief and hospital director who were SAS targets two weeks ago. Drljaca, commandant of the notorious Omarska concentration camp, was killed in a shootout at the second arrest attempt. The team also had orders to arrest Milomir Stakic, the Mayor of Prijedor — who subsequently went to ground and was not picked up two weeks ago.

The abortive operation in March tipped off the three men that they were wanted, and put them on alert. According to sources who have spoken to *The Times* on condition of anonymity, this was why Drljaca was so quick to draw a gun and shoot as soon as the SAS approached. His bodyguards and Serb militia had cracked the communications codes used by three investigators from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, who spent two days telephoning The Hague to overcome legal and bureaucratic delays.

From the start, the operation was hampered by the reluctance of the Stabilisation Force (Sfor) to go beyond the restricted conditions authorising troops to arrest war-crimes suspects. There was clear reluctance among the allies, especially by John Major's Government, to risk a shootout with armed Serb police and bodyguards. The operation was aborted days before Mr Major announced the general election in Britain. It remained a secret until details emerged yesterday.

The cumbersome legal procedure also meant that it took the international tribunal in The Hague two days to issue the full indictments. These had to be smuggled from Croatia across the Bosnian border in a British Land Rover at midnight to avoid falling into the hands of the Serb police. On two occasions a senior American prosecutor flew directly to Bosnia at an hour's notice to try to persuade the British commander to authorise the arrests.

As a result of the failed snatch, British and American military planners made sure that they had top political authority and that all decisions could be executed within minutes during the second



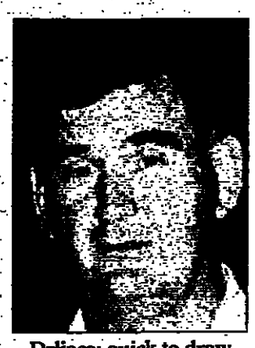
attempt immediately after the Madrid Nato summit.

The March operation came after mounting political pressure, especially by the American Government, to start arresting war-crimes suspects. In January an investigation team, with a British military escort, began seeking evidence of atrocities in the British sector of Bosnia, visiting the site of the Omarska camp, ruined Muslim villages and places where corpses of civilians were being exhumed

> ❛ It took the international tribunal in The Hague two days to issue the full indictments ❜

from mass graves. The investigators were accompanied by a Swedish lawyer, two Swedish police and a British police officer. They toured round in Sfor patrol vehicles, and regularly went to Prijedor, looking for evidence against the three men. But the Bosnian Serbs were deeply suspicious: tipped off by the insecure telephone network, armed Serbs appeared suddenly at most sites that the investigators visited.

By March 11 the team was ready to move against the three men. The question then was, who would make the arrests? Theoretically, this should have been left to the international police task force in Bosnia, but it declined. Lieutenant-General Roddy Cordy-Simpson, the British Sfor commander in Sarajevo, was sympathetic, but Major-General Webb Carter, commanding the British sector from Banja Luka, needed specific authorisation.


Drljaca: quick to draw gun against the SAS

For most of the day urgent cables went back and forth, from The Hague to Banja Luka to the small military team escorting the investigators. Sfor demanded delivery of the full indictments — because the full charges had to be made available immediately to defence lawyers. The bulky sheaf of papers could not be faxed. So eventually an official flew at midnight to Croatia, and on the motorway near the Bosnian border handed over the documents to the military escort team in a marked Sfor patrol Land Rover. The papers were concealed in the seat.

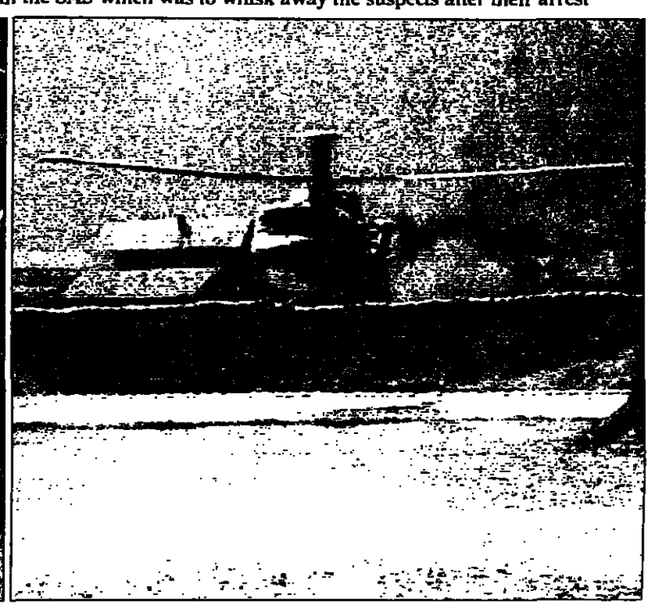
"D-Day" was planned for March 13. Surveillance operations had established that Drljaca went for coffee every morning at 10.30. But there was a delay. A lengthy chain of specific authorisations had to be agreed: from The Hague criminal tribunal to Nato headquarters, which in turn had to inform Sfor and also the authorities in Republika Srpska. Sfor again stalled. By the evening, the military escort spotted two suspects in Prijedor. Not till 2am did they get clearance to arrest them.

The plan called for military back-up. An SAS team stood by, ready to come in at five minutes' notice if trouble broke out. They had three Lynx Mk7 helicopters to bring in the forces and to whisk the suspects out of Bosnia as soon as they were arrested.

The final decisions were left to the small military escort. The priority was to avoid a shootout — and if trouble started, the investigators from The Hague were to be rushed out as fast as possible to Banja Luka. "Tango" was the call sign to bring in the SAS if things went wrong.

At the last minute, the plan was called off. The suspects were clearly alerted: they were closely accompanied by armed troops and bodyguards. "It was too risky," a source told *The Times*. And if shooting started, the Serb troops would move immediately against the nearest Sfor base, only two minutes away. The SAS, investigators and military escort melted away. And so, when President Clinton and Tony Blair discussed a new snatch operation over a midnight beer in Madrid, they decided that the next time there would be no hold-ups, argument or political buck-passing.

The British escort team enters Prijedor on the morning of the proposed snatch as, below left, two troops wait at the roadside to receive the indictments and, right, a Lynx helicopter stands by to bring in the SAS which was to whisk away the suspects after their arrest



Serb aid warning

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BRUSSELS

A TWO-DAY international donor conference on Bosnia opened here yesterday with a clear warning to the Serbs that they may be denied aid because of their failure to hand over indicted war-crime suspects.

Hans van den Broek, a European Commissioner and the conference chairman, emphasised that aid to parties who "oppose and frustrate" the goals of postwar reconciliation in Bosnia-Herzegovina "cannot be justified".

The European Union, which is co-chairing the conference with the World Bank, has suspended all non-humanitarian aid to the Serb Republic in Bosnia on the ground that its leaders have failed to send their former leader, Radovan Karadzic, to face war-crimes charges. The EU has said that reconstruction aid will not resume while war-crime suspects continue to dominate political and economic activity in Republika Srpska. Organisers of the conference hope to raise $1.4 billion (£850 million) in aid to stimulate the economy.

Mr van den Broek said that he expected to receive indications from donors "for next year's needs totalling some $1.1 billion".

Under the US-brokered Dayton peace accords which ended Bosnia's conflict in December 1995, the parties to the conflict pledged to hand over those indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for trial in The Hague.

Milosevic sworn in amid bitter protests

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BELGRADE

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC was sworn in yesterday as President of the Yugoslav Federation after thousands of protesters bombarded his car with shoes and fought with police sent in to quash the demonstrations.

During his inaugural speech in the federal parliament, he promised "peace, progress and prosperity" during his four-year term as head of the federation, comprising Serbia and tiny Montenegro.

True to his neo-communist style, he criticised independent media — whom he has been careful to keep under tight rein during his decade in power — as being under foreign "financial, political and moral influence". As he spoke, thousands of opponents gathered on the streets of Belgrade but police blockades prevented them reaching parliament.

However, more than 1,000 demonstrators, chanting "Red bandits" — the battle cry of Mr Milosevic's opponents — did manage to reach a park just across from parliament. They bombarded his car with shoes and other improvised missiles as he left the building. The protest was called by the independent university students' union. At least two people were arrested and one protester was injured as police clubbed demonstrators, an independent television station reported.

Up to 300 of his supporters, bussed in from Belgrade suburbs, were allowed on to the steps of parliament. They carried his portraits and chanted: "Slobo, Slobo, Yugoslavia, Yugoslavia."

Presidential elections in Serbia to choose a successor to Mr Milosevic will be held on September 21. Mr Milosevic, who served as Serbia's President, was elected President of the Yugoslav Federation on July 15 in a vote which opposition parties said was illegal.

The federal presidency is largely ceremonial, but many believe Mr Milosevic will try to change the constitution to reflect the powers he has amassed as the most influential politician in Yugoslavia.

☐ **Election call:** The Montenegrin parliament has called presidential elections for October 5, almost three months before the mandate of President Bulatovic expires. Mr Bulatovic, who enjoys Serbia's support, had wanted early parliamentary elections instead to resolve a rift with Milo Djukanovic, the Prime Minister. *(Reuter)*

£100,000 OF LIFE INSURANCE FROM £8.73 A MONTH*

• Civil Servants
• Town Hall Employees
• Teachers
• Lecturers
• Post Office Staff
• NHS Staff
• Police
• Nurses
• Fire Service
• Prison Officers
• Ambulance Service

It only costs a little to leave them a lot

A Zurich Municipal Term Assurance Policy can provide £100,000 for your family if you die. And if you work in the public sector, you get a 15% discount which means you could pay a monthly premium of just £8.73*. It's easy, too – a phone call can secure immediate cover in a few minutes.

Call us now to find out more. One day, your family might be very glad you did.

LIFE INSURANCE
0800 147 147

Open: 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat

For your security, all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and randomly monitored.

PLEASE QUOTE REF: LTM2407

ZURICH MUNICIPAL
Focusing on the Public Sector

*Premium of £8.73 includes public sector discount. Example given is a 10-year level term assurance policy for a married, non-smoking, 30-year-old female local government clerical officer. The premium quoted may be varied according to individual circumstances and is subject to acceptance at ordinary rates. Premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages.

Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance and investment business and is a member of the Association of British Insurers. Zurich Municipal markets the life products of Zurich Life only and does not provide financial advice.

Zurich Life Assurance Company Ltd is registered in England, No. 676329. Registered Office: Zurich House, Stamport Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 1DD.

Offer also applies to spouses

NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY

Highlights of the Interim Report for 6 months ended 30th June 1997

- Pre-tax profits, excluding non-recurring items, up to £97 million – an increase of 10.2% compared to the 6 month period ended 30 June 1996.
- Reduction in cost to income ratio to 30.9% compared to 31.5% at 30 June 1996.
- Reduction in administrative expense ratio to 0.66 compared to 0.74 per £100 of mean assets at 30 June 1996.
- Assets now £14.6 billion – up by 13.6% compared to 30 June 1996.
- Net lending of £794 million representing an estimated share of the UK net mortgage market of 7% – around 2.5 times Northern Rock's expected "natural" share.
- Net retail receipts of £531 million – up 75% on the 6 month period ended 30 June 1996.
- Conversion plans to plc status are proceeding on schedule towards an expected flotation on 1 October 1997.

	6 months to 30 June 97 £m Unaudited	6 months to 30 June 96 £m Unaudited	12 months to 31 December 96 £m Audited
Interest receivable	470.0	408.6	827.7
Interest payable	(337.5)	(288.2)	(587.5)
Net interest receivable	132.5	120.4	240.2
Other income & charges	19.7	22.3	36.1
Total income	152.2	142.7	276.3
Administrative expenses - recurring	(47.0)	(45.0)	(91.5)
- non-recurring conversion costs	(9.4)	(2.0)	(10.5)
- non-recurring other costs	(24.8)	-	-
Provisions for bad and doubtful debts	(8.2)	(9.7)	(17.3)
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	62.8	86.0	157.2
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(33.5)	(29.0)	(53.9)
Profit for the period	29.3	57.0	103.3
Total Assets	14,648.8	12,896.3	13,717.9
Gross lending	1,240	1,601	2,673
Net lending	794	1,139	1,358
Net retail receipts	531	302	584
Net non-retail receipts	197	824	1,000

Notes: There have been no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the periods under review.

Statement from the Managing Director

"I am pleased to announce another very good set of results for Northern Rock. The strong financial performance was very much in keeping with our tradition of strong profit and asset growth and falling unit costs".

LEO FINN
Managing Director

NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock Building Society: Principal Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL.

Death row's cause célèbre marries on eve of execution

Urs: four-year fight

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A CONVICTED murderer in Virginia yesterday married a volunteer legal assistant hours before he was expected to be executed in one of the most contentious capital cases in the state's history.

Joseph O'Dell and Lori Urs, the woman who has fought for four years to prove his innocence, held a short afternoon wedding ceremony in a room next to the death chamber at Greensville Correctional Centre where he was later expected to face a lethal injection last night (2am British time).

Despite pleas for clemency from the Pope, the Italian Government and Mother Teresa, authorities were last night preparing to carry out the sentence as defence lawyers made a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

After exchanging marriage vows, the couple were permitted a one-hour meeting with no physical contact before O'Dell was led back to his cell on death row. There would be no conjugal rights and no further contact, a prison official said.

O'Dell was arrested after leaving bloodsoaked clothes at a girlfriend's house.

However, since his conviction for the 1985 rape and murder of Helen Schartner in Virginia, his supporters have questioned DNA testing in the case which suggested that blood on his jacket belonged to Schartner. Despite having no ties to Italy, O'Dell has capitalised on Italian opposition to the death penalty, sending regular Internet messages to newspapers in Rome and Milan from his prison cell.

As a result, the case has become a cause célèbre, prompting both the Pope and Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, to intervene on his behalf. Delegations from the Italian parliament have been sent to Virginia to demand a stay of execution and the Vatican's television station continued to call for mercy yesterday.

Signor Prodi, during several recent meetings with President Clinton, is said to have avoided all talk of Nato expansion and Bosnia and instead lobbied strenuously for a commuted sentence. The convicted prisoner has been made an honorary citizen of Palermo, the Sicilian capital, and authorities there have discussed the possibility of flying his body to the city on an Italian Air Force plane.

Gail Lee, the victim's sister, said that the overwhelming support for O'Dell had been particularly hard for her family.

"By listening just to one side of the case, the Italians have in essence said to my family, 'You are worthless, Helen's life didn't matter,'" Ms Lee said.

Opponents of the death penalty in the United States have seized on the case as a further symbol of the pitfalls inherent in the system of capital punishment. O'Dell is represented by lawyers and public relations agencies in Washington and New York and leading abolitionists have flocked to his cause.

Sister Helen Prejean, the author of *Dead Man Walking*, the best-selling book which was later made into a film starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, has became his spiritual adviser, while Clive Stafford Smith, a British lawyer based in Louisiana who specialises in contesting capital sentences, has also been called in to argue on his behalf.

"It is quite clear to us that there are numerous discrepancies in this case and it highlights exactly the problems of having a death penalty," said Mr Stafford Smith.

O'Dell: plea from Pope

Collapse of dyke forces Germans to flee

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

ONE of the sodden dykes holding back the torrential Oder river in eastern Germany finally burst yesterday, flooding low-lying villages and forcing residents to evacuate their homes.

Not everyone in the state of Brandenburg went quietly, and police had to forcibly remove about 50 people who had barricaded themselves inside their homes for fear of being looted.

More than 2,300 people had to be evacuated after the river breached the dyke after days of heavy rain, leading to rising flood waters pouring into the region on the German-Polish border. The 100-mile long dyke burst in two places after currents weakened the numerous sandbag defences that had kept the water at bay since last week. One of the breaches was 300ft long, Jürgen Dollass, a police spokesman, said.

One of the areas flooded was near the town of Aurith, about eight miles south of Frankfurt an der Oder, and Ratzdorf, from where 800 residents were evacuated early yesterday. About 40,000 livestock animals were transported out of the region as cellars and low-lying streets in Frankfurt and surrounding villages were inundated.

In Frankfurt yesterday flood waters surged above the 1930 record level. Although the weather remained sunny, flood waters rose in several neighbouring villages and more rain is forecast for today.

More than 35,000 police, firefighters, soldiers and volunteers have been working around the clock to plug gaps in the dykes. So far they have been able to control the worst of the torrent, in contrast to neighbouring Poland and the Czech Republic where 128 people have died and thousands of farmers face financial ruin in the worst floods this century.

President Kwasniewski visited the Polish side of the Oder yesterday. He met Wolfgang Pohl, the Mayor of Frankfurt an der Oder, on a bridge linking the two countries to discuss rescue efforts.

In the Czech Republic, the Government has pledged to help those whose livelihoods have been ruined by the unseasonal heavy rains that have been battering the region for the past fortnight. Flood waters have damaged more than 12,000 homes in 500 towns and villages and cut road, rail and telecommunications as well as swamping valuable crop land.

In Germany, where Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, paid a visit to the stricken area this week, the Government pledged aid and low-interest loans to repair the flood damage which, according to some insurers, will cost hundreds of millions of marks. The eventual cost will only be known when water levels subside. Offers of help for the victims have been pouring in from all over Germany.

In the worst-hit areas in Poland and the Czech Republic there is now a serious threat of diseases because many sewers have broken and flood waters are contaminated with rotting food and animal carcasses.

A German firm in Saxony-Anhalt said it would deliver 105,000 gallons of mineral water to the Wroclaw region of Poland today and hopes to be able to help out in the Czech Republic too.

Marek Sobczak, a flood crisis official in Poland, said the latest flood wave would soon reach the southwestern city of Opole and would probably later inundate the residential estate of Zacisze in Wroclaw, further north. But he said there would be no repeat of the earlier calamity that flooded Opole and much of Wroclaw in up to 6 ft of water.

"We should not expect another catastrophe on the same scale as early this month," Mr Sobczak said.

JOCKEL FINCK/AP

Flood waters from the Oder pour through a broken dyke into eastern Germany where more than 2,000 people have been evacuated

Graf quits Church to save on tax

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

STEFFI GRAF, the German tennis player, is the latest to join a growing number of Roman Catholics leaving the Church to save on tax, according to media reports.

South German Radio said that the tennis star, who once had a private audience with the Pope, had decided to leave the faith for financial reasons. She is estimated to owe the Catholic Church £370,000 in back tax from the £7.6 million her father moved abroad illegally to avoid paying revenue on earnings.

Peter Graf, 58, was convicted of tax evasion in January and is due to begin a 14-month sentence at the end of this month. Since his arrest two years ago, his daughter, 28, has been trying to negotiate a reduction in the debt to the Church.

Members of the Catholic and Evangelical Churches in Germany have to pay between 1.4 and 2.3 per cent of their gross income in church tax. The rate depends on salary. Those unemployed or receiving welfare benefit are either exempt or make a reduced contribution.

The tax is usually deducted at source and administered by the state, which charges the Church for the service. Registration, however, is organised by local parishes in association with the residents' registration office. Leaving the Church is relatively simple, involving filling in a form.

After that it is impossible to marry or be christened in church or attend regular services. Rejoining is more difficult and involves a personal interview with local clergy.

Steffi Graf said in an interview a few years ago that she was a firm believer, prayed regularly before important tournaments and often accompanied her father to their local church in Brühl, in south-western Germany, where the Grafs have a family villa.

When 18, she was invited to the Vatican with her younger brother, Michael, for a private, half-hour audience with the Pope. At the time, she was unable to play tennis because of an injury and was reported to have been encouraged by the Pope's words.

Ten years on, she is again unable to compete in tournaments because of a knee injury many fear could prevent her playing professionally again.

Since her father's tax evasion conviction her main sponsors, Opal, BASF and Dunlop, have dropped her. A £4 million contract with Adidas runs out this year and will not be renewed.

US puts foot down for no-hands driving

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

NO HANDS. No feet. Not even any eyes. On one of America's first stretches of fully automated highway, scheduled to open in 2002, human driver input is positively discouraged.

At a demonstration of the 7.6-mile stretch of interstate highway east of San Diego, a bus driver relinquished all control of his vehicle to an onboard computer and several thousand magnets embedded in the tarmac. The bus promptly swerved to avoid a traffic cone. Such are the wonders of 21st-century driving technology to which Congress hopes drivers will entrust their lives as congestion mounts and land for new road building runs out.

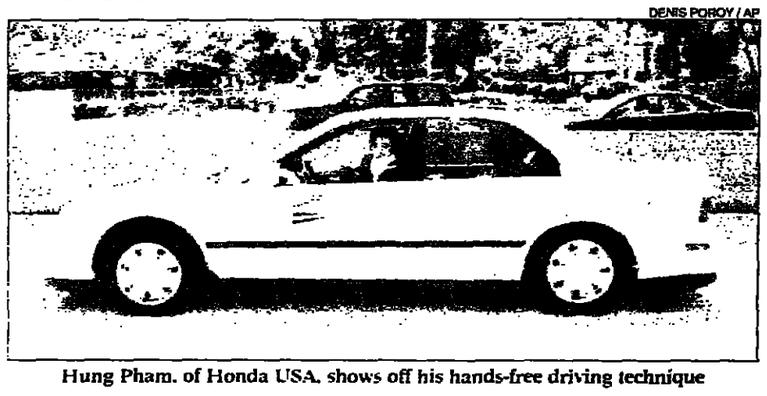
The demonstration on a two-lane expressway that was closed to non-computerised traffic featured cars with radar sensors and rear-view video cameras, and magnetic "nails" at 4ft intervals on each side of each lane. Using a navigation system developed by Honda, the vehicles checked their position in relation to the magnets and each other every few seconds. It was, one engineer involved said proudly, "really dull. It's really exciting for about the first 15 seconds, then it's like driving with a chauffeur". No-hands driving on automated highways will allow cars to move faster, safer and more economically than the current system of relying on weary and irritable humans, according to the National Automated Highway System Consortium.

The consortium, which includes General Motors and several universities among its members, won a $200 million (£119 million) government research contract as part of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (also known as Ice Tea).

The site of America's first public automated road has not yet been chosen: nor has the exact technology. The computerisation of American driving appears inevitable, however: while the know-how exists to drive long lines of cars fast and safely only a few feet apart, studies show that 90 per cent of American road accidents are caused by human error.

Equipping a road with magnets and radar reflectors can cost as little as $10,000 a mile instead of the millions a mile of new road would cost, a consortium spokesman said. On-board computers and cameras will add hundreds of dollars to the price of a car. The environmental benefits of the new system are said to come from sitting in your fellow driver's slipstream.

DENIS POROY / AP


Hung Pham, of Honda USA, shows off his hands-free driving technique

States block Klan's plan to collect litter

BY TOM RHODES

A GROWING number of states are taking legal action to prevent the Ku Klux Klan from taking part in a nationwide anti-litter programme.

The Adopt-a-Highway programme, started ten years ago in Texas, has been a useful means by which local authorities in America can save money. Members are required to pick up rubbish along their adopted stretch of road while the state, in turn, provides litter bags and orange safety vests to volunteers.

But now Klan members in Florida are threatening to sue the state if they are unable to "adopt" a stretch of motorway near Deltona, while officials in Missouri and Texas have taken cases to federal court to block the racist organisation from what is seen as a prerogative of local communities. Four years ago, the Klan adopted Highway 65 near Harrison, Arkansas, the national headquarters of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Since then, eight roadside signs recognising the group's contribution have been replaced because of vandalism.

Although the states argue that the Klan sends entirely the wrong message and should be barred from the programme, the organisation argues it wants to be granted the same status as other civic or fraternal groups: to be a part of the local community.

"Really, we're just like the Lions or the Elks. We want our good works to be visible," said Jeff Coleman, the Grand Wizard of the Royal Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida.

Save Money on International Phone Calls

Canada 14p India 44p Australia 20p Japan 26p
all prices include VAT

Germany	18p	Malaysia	44p	Hong Kong	34p
France	18p	New Zealand	25p	Ghana	52p
Nigeria	59p	Pakistan	57p	Malawi	54p
China	60p	Bangladesh	60p	Russia	47p
South Korea	47p	Kenya	66p	Jamaica	47p

•Crystal Clear Connections
•Free Instant Connection
•Free Itemised Monthly Statements
•You Can Use Any Touch-tone Phone
•Bonus Incentives

For full details and great savings to hundreds of other countries, call FREE on
0800 279 1500
Prices quoted are per minute, 24 hour rates, 7 days per week. Prices correct on 23.7.'97

OYSTEL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

'It's so much cheaper with OYSTEL!'

STROKE: BRAIN ATTACK
THE STROKE ASSOCIATION: BRAIN DEFENCE

The STROKE ASSOCIATION

THE STROKE ASSOCIATION, STROKE HOUSE, WHITECROSS STREET, LONDON EC1Y 8JJ.
TELEPHONE: 0171 490 7999.

Macpherson: nude pictures stolen

Model in 'toy boy' claim

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

ELLE MACPHERSON, the Australian fashion model, is suing the lawyer of a client accused of stealing nude pictures of her and threatening to publish them on the Internet.

The photographs were taken from her Los Angeles home last month along with jewellery, cash and blank cheques. Two men, who later demanded $60,000 (£36,500) for not publishing the pictures, were arrested by undercover police when they turned up at a rendezvous to collect the money. Michael Mischler, 29, and Ryan Holt, 26, have been charged with burglary and extortion.

Mr Mischler's lawyer has said his client cannot be guilty of burglary as he claims he was an invited guest of Ms Macpherson on the night in question and that she treated him as a "toy boy".

Ms Macpherson denied ever meeting Mr Mischler and told a press conference on Tuesday that she is suing his lawyer, Lawrence Young, for defamation.

Liberia warlord wins 'vote for peace' election

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES TAYLOR, the Liberian warlord, yesterday won through the ballot box the power he had tried to take by force. He received more than 70 per cent of the vote in an election aimed at ending seven years of civil war.

Mr Taylor, 49, who sparked the war when he invaded Liberia from neighbouring Ivory Coast in December 1989, inherits a country on which he inflicted drug-using child soldiers. Liberia's war has cost 150,000 lives and forced more than half the 2.5 million population from their homes. But its most frightening legacy is the tens of thousands of young fighters whose traumatic and bizarre war experiences have left many deeply troubled.

Human rights groups have given warnings that democracy in Liberia will have to be matched with intensive efforts to rehabilitate the child soldiers.

A West African peacekeeping force led by Nigerian troops fanned out across Liberia — sub-Saharan Africa's first independent nation, founded by freed American slaves in 1847 — to ensure that the polls were not disrupted.

About 500 electoral observers said yesterday that the elections had been "free and fair" although many illiterate voters needed help to fill out their ballot papers. The turnout was overwhelming — 600,000 of the 700,000 registered voters took part in what was seen as an "election for peace".

Mr Taylor's nearest rival, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, won just over 9 per cent of the vote and after initially suggesting that the polls had been rigged, promised to mount a vigorous parliamentary opposition to his All Liberian Coalition Party.

Mr Taylor's success was being ascribed to two factors. International observers said many Liberians feared that if he failed to win at the polls, he would return to war. He also won over supporters by issuing an apology to the nation for the war when he cast his ballot last Saturday. "Taylor came across as the only person who would be strong enough to unite the factions," one European diplomat said.

Ecomog, the West African peacekeeping force, will continue to oversee the disarmament of Liberia's many factions as part of a peace agreement — the fourteenth since 1990 — which led to the polls. Foreign aid groups have begun trying to reintegrate child soldiers into society, but as one commented yesterday: "It's difficult to maintain discipline in a classroom if half the kids are killers and have known absolute power."

Taylor: received more than 70 per cent of vote

Further signs of discord were reported by Liberia's vigorous press, which said that many members of the Krahn ethnic group in the former government army were worried that they would be purged after the victory of their former enemies.

Furthermore, al-Haji Kromah, a warlord who fought against Mr Taylor, claimed that there had been serious irregularities in the elections.

"This was no election," said Mr Kromah, who was formerly an ally of Mr Taylor. "The elections that we see here are marred with numerous things: some very illogical, some directly offensive to the election proceedings. All combine to show that we are making a big mockery of democracy and this result is totally unacceptable," he said.

☐ **Bamako:** The ruling Alliance for Democracy (Adema) in Mali swept elections which were boycotted by most opposition parties, the electoral commission announced.

Based on returns from 50 of Mali's 55 electoral districts, Adema won 110 of the 147 legislative seats contested in the vote on Sunday, while moderate opposition parties won five, the national electoral commission said. Turnout was 12 per cent in Bamako, the capital, and 22 per cent elsewhere. *(AFP)*

BRUCE COTLER / AP

Cyndi Lauper, whose hits include *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, performing at New York's Radio City Music Hall. She told the audience she is expecting a boy

West's bid to cut child labour backfires

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INTERNATIONAL efforts to save Indian children from toiling on carpet looms are threatening to become a disaster for the people they are meant to help.

The centuries-old handmade rug industry, providing vital income to some of the world's poorest people, is suffering because of well-intentioned but often misguided foreign intervention.

Indian rugs — as well as those from Pakistan and Nepal — are becoming stigmatised because of the belief that they are produced by young, forced labour. Almost every rug made in South Asia has an element of child labour in it, but most child weavers work for their parents on small family looms set into the mud floors of their village huts.

There is little choice for poor children but to work: if they were not on looms they would be down mines, in glass or fireworks factories, at garage workshops, stone quarries and brick kilns, or producing *bidis* (thin cigarettes) and matches in dangerous conditions.

The biggest impact on the carpet industry has come from a project called Rugmark, under which carpets supposedly free of child labour are specially labelled. The scheme, relying on inspectors, is mainly to reassure Western buyers, but is nearly impossible to enforce.

Rugmark is backed by Unicef and a number of prominent foreign charities.

Mbeki 'rides gravy plane'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

JUST as the "gravy train" furore over high salaries seemed to have subsided, South Africa's political elite is being accused of upgrading — to the "gravy plane".

Opposition politicians have expressed outrage over next week's exodus of Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, ten Cabinet ministers, two deputies and more than 100 officials on a mass junket to Washington, where they will be indulged by Al Gore, the Vice-President, and other American counterparts, all of whom they last saw only five months ago.

The mass decampment is occasioned by what officials called the fourth half-yearly meeting of the US-South Africa binational commission, co-chaired by Mr Mbeki and Mr Gore. But on closer inspection it is, in fact, the fifth meeting, and what the ministers of housing, water affairs, agriculture and labour, among others, will be up to when the only major item on the agenda is setting up a committee to deal with defence is anyone's guess.

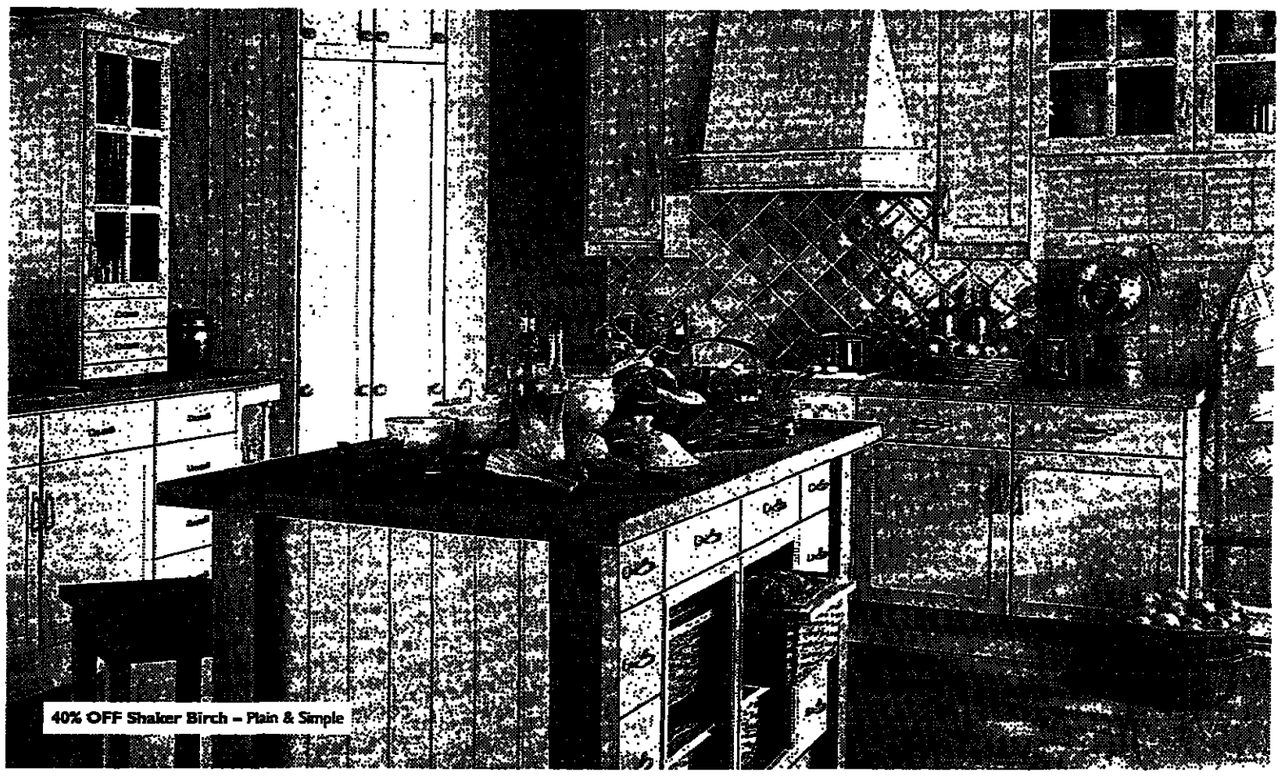
Tony Leon, the opposition Democratic Party leader, is furious: "I think there is a great tendency [in the Government] to fly overseas rather than tackle problems at home," he said. "It adds excitement to the job, no doubt."

It was excitement engendered by South Africa's participation in the Atlanta Olympics that led several ministers and their officials to swap briefcases for sun hats, and there is concern that this may have started a trend.

The big pay packages and lucrative perks accorded to the new political elite prompted Archbishop Desmond Tutu to accuse senior politicians and others of stopping the gravy train "just long enough to get on it". Mr Mbeki has personally been linked to several exorbitant functions.

Clearly President Mandela's call for his colleagues to tighten their belts has been ignored. A conservative estimate of the travel and five-star hotel bills for the latest big-spending trip exceeds £250,000. Ministers will also have chauffeur-driven cars at their disposal.

HALF PRICE
SUMMER SALE



Picket fences painted white.
Foxgloves in the borders. Roses around the door.
Shaker Birch in the sale.

In the Magnet Summer Sale, all cabinets in 50 kitchen and bedroom ranges are reduced in price, most by 50%.

Take a look at these appetising Summer offers from Whirlpool
Free Dishwasher† ADG710 worth £599.99 (RRP)
Free Hob with selected oven packs
Up to 40% off Cooling
25% off Laundry
FIRENZI A new range of appliances available exclusively from Magnet
There's so much to choose from on the Magnet menu. For your nearest showroom call 0800 555 825
Magnet Food for thought
ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS OF THESE AND MANY MORE OFFERS
TI 66
Discounts are off prices charged between 28th May and 25th June 1997. †When you spend £3,250 or more on a kitchen purchase (excluding installation).
Serving up beautiful kitchens during Summer between the hours of: Monday to Saturday 8.00-5.00. Selected branches open until 8.00 on Thursday and 10.00-4.00 on Sunday. Check each branch for details.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the benefits of wearing sports shoes; patterns of weight gain; life after the menopause; male infertility; and the risks of taking steroids

Trainers can keep your feet healthy

Thirty years ago a foreign correspondent, newly appointed to London, was told by his news editor that he could determine all he needed to know about a male Briton's character and class by looking at his shoes and socks.

Now that Britain is becoming a classless society his successors would find it difficult to label a man after a glance at his feet. Trainers are now universally accepted informal wear for younger people of both sexes and all backgrounds. In most traditional professions trainers would still be viewed with disdain by senior colleagues at work, but they are accepted in advertising, television and any job where a uniform appearance is of less importance than comfort.

The best trainers provide varying levels of air cushioning in the sole, which protects joints from the repetitive jarring which can lead to arthritis. They offer support to the ankle but their flexible, air-permeable uppers also allow ventilation so that the skin between the toes does not become soggy and a haven for fungi. The inside of trainers can be readily sprayed with a fungicide such as Daktarin, which keeps athlete's foot at bay.

The support a trainer offers to the three arches of the foot, as well as to the ankle, should reduce the incidence of one of the most tiresome of foot conditions — plantar fasciitis. The plantar fascia is a thick layer of fibrous connective tissue which lies beneath the skin and is attached to the heel bone at one end and, after running under the longitudinal arch of the sole of the foot, to the base of the toes at the other. In plantar fasciitis the fascia under the heel becomes inflamed and painful.

Dishan Singh, senior lecturer of the Foot and Ankle Unit of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, west London, together with John Angel, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the hospital, Professor George Bentley, also from Stanmore, and Professor Saul Trevino, of Houston, Texas, have recently reviewed the diagnosis and treatment of plantar fasciitis in the *British Medical Journal*.

Doctors see so many cases of plantar fasciitis, the most common cause of heel pain, that they tend to assume that everyone with a painful heel suffers from it. The condition can be confused with Reiter's Syndrome, a sexually transmitted complaint, ankylosing spondylitis, a stress fracture of the heel bone, an infection of the bone, damage to the nerves leading to the foot or, in older people, Paget's Disease or tumours.

> 'They support the three arches of the foot and ankle'

A patient with plantar fasciitis will notice an increasingly severe pain under their heel bone. The pain is worst in the morning, so that when the sufferer gets out of bed he has to limp. Provided that he does not do anything too vigorous, the pain soon lessens. But it returns with a vengeance if he jogs, plays tennis or cricket, goes hiking or even walks too vigorously along the pavement.

The authors of the report suggest that this morning pain is characteristic of plantar fasciitis, whereas other causes of heel pain do not get better once the patient is up and about. Similarly, if the pain persists throughout the night a doctor's suspicions should be aroused in case there may be some other cause.

Some people are at increased risk of developing plantar fasciitis. Those who usually live a sedentary life, but suddenly become exercise fanatics, may succumb to it, as may those who put on a gross amount of weight and overstrain the complex structure of the foot.

The most important aspect of treatment of plantar fasciitis is avoidance. Weight should be kept down and shoes should be well fitted and the soles adequately cushioned.

Once symptoms have developed, a shaped insole, preferably not too hard, may help: this should be designed to maintain the inner longitudinal arch. Some patients benefit from exercises to stretch the Achilles tendon, and a splint can be devised to keep it in a stretched state throughout the night.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are helpful as they relieve both pain and inflammation. Injections of steroids with or without a local anaesthetic is often useful, but there is a potential hazard as occasionally they can cause the fat beneath the skin to shrivel and atrophy.

Camilla Parker Bowles looks athletic and muscular, if somewhat broad — a pattern of weight that may not be unhealthy

The clue to health is in the size of the waist

A PATIENT, carrying a copy of the Italian magazine *Oggi*, tells me that Italian men greatly admire and are intrigued by Camilla Parker Bowles. *Oggi* makes a speciality of publishing below-the-belt photographs of the famous and this week has pictures of Mrs Parker Bowles and of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Mrs Parker Bowles looks athletic and muscular, if somewhat broad. On the other hand, although seemingly much slimmer, the Princess has been putting on weight around her lower abdomen. In the long term these different patterns of weight gain may be of great medical significance.

Doctors are concerned as to how and where weight is put on. There is overwhelming evidence to support the theory that if excess weight is carried centrally, characterised by the development of a heavy chest and abdomen while the limbs remain skinny, the patient has an increased risk of developing heart disease, hypertension and some forms of diabetes. This risk becomes much more apparent once the abdominal girth exceeds the hip measurement.

British research in 1995 suggested that men should aim to keep their waist measurements to under 37in, and women to under 31½. More recently, Canadian doctors suggested this is too stringent, men's waists are acceptable at 40in and there is a corresponding increase for women.

A change for the better

At the time of the Roman Empire, the life expectancy of a woman was 23 years and it was not until the late 19th century that more than one-third of women in Britian lived long enough to reach the menopause. Now a girl born in Britain can expect to live to 78, including a 27-year span after the menopause.

Fortunately, treatments are available to alleviate the symptoms of ovarian failure and these provide the essential hormones lost to those women who defy nature by living beyond their fifth decade.

There have recently been several dramatic reports which have emphasised the disadvantages of hormonal replacement therapy (HRT), without stressing their enormous benefits.

There seemed to be no better way of verifying the facts about HRT than by consulting the second edition of *Gynaecology*, edited by Professor Robert Shaw, Mr Patrick Soutter and Professor Stuart Stanton, as the book is rapidly becoming a standard reference work for doctors.

Gynaecology includes a fascinating account of the history of the menopause. The average age at which a woman's period stops has been around 50 since Roman times. Aristotle, writing in the 6th century, discovered that the age was then 50, 100 years later Paulus Aegineta came to the same conclusion, as did Hildegard in the 12th century and Gilbertus Angelicus in the 13th century. There has however been some change in the past 700 years: official British figures show that the average age of the menopause here is now 51.

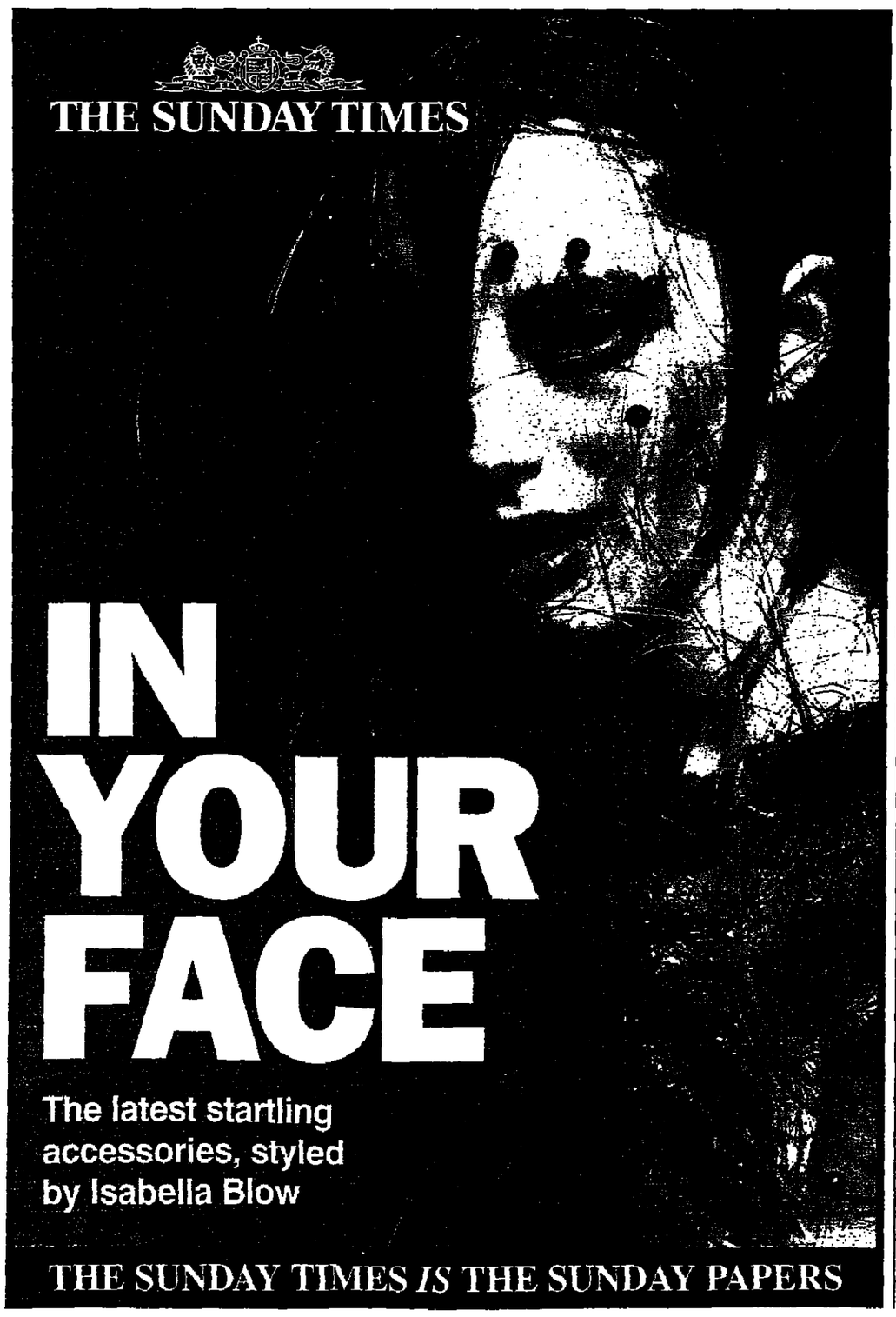
> Race, diet, poverty, weight and height do not affect the timing

Unlike the time of the start of menstruation, race, diet, poverty, weight and height do not affect the time of menopause. The average age of the menopause is the same in South Africa or South Kensington. A study a few years ago showed that there was an exception — women who lived in the islands off the north of Scotland had a later menopause than those anywhere else in the world. It is known that gynaecological surgery, in particular hysterectomy, but also sometimes sterilisation, has an effect on the time of the menopause. The authors of the chapter on it in *Gynaecology* write that the only external influence on its timing is cigarette smoking. They do not speculate on why this is, but others have suggested it could result from damage to the ovarian blood supply.

Since *Gynaecology* went to press there has been a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that alcohol, even in modest amounts, increases oestrogen levels in women taking HRT but not, this particular survey showed, in women not on hormone replacement. Previous studies have suggested that alcohol increases oestrogen levels in all women, so it is possible that the Scottish islanders' late menopause may not be so much related to Darwinian natural selection, but to the availability of whisky.

In the long term, increased levels of oestrogen, from wherever they have been derived, reduced instances of osteoporosis, heart disease, senile dementia, genital and urethral atrophy, so that patients not only live longer but are happier and brighter. The disadvantages of HRT are that it occasions an increase in the incidence of cancer of the breast and, to a lesser extent, uterus, and that a proportion of patients find that mood swings before the monthly bleed when they are taking progestogens are unacceptable.

Gynaecology is published by Churchill Livingston, price £115.



Why men need to be pampered

FARMERS have never had any doubts about the importance of looking after the sires on their farm. The bull, boar and stallion were cosseted both physically and mentally. Doctors did not learn from their rural patients, and when discussing fertility usually assumed the cause rested with the woman.

In an increasing number of infertile partnerships, the state of the male sperm is responsible. The origins of the trouble have usually been thought to be physical, and when a low sperm count is found questions are asked as to a possible history of mumps, sexually transmitted diseases, some forms of chronic cough and nasal congestion and other illnesses. The wearing of tight clothing, working in very hot surroundings or even having too plump a mother with high-circulating oestrogen levels have also been blamed, as has the taking of drugs, whether medically prescribed such as steroids or socially such as tobacco and excessive alcohol. Spermatogenesis may also be influenced by trauma, whether surgical or from exposure to industrial chemicals.

A recent edition of the *Journal of Andrology*, however, reports that psychological stress can also affect the mortality of sperm and their ability to swim determinedly towards the ovum, particularly if it is the death of a close relative. It could be argued that men, like bulls, need to be well fed, emotionally pampered and protected from injury, physical or mental.

Protection for patients on steroids

ARTHUR and Victoria McConnell, of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, are campaigning for greater awareness of the risk of contracting chickenpox while taking steroids.

They claim that their daughter, Lexie, would never have died if they had been told of this possibly lethal combination, and if they had known they would have taken precautions to keep Lexie away from anyone with the disease.

People who are known to be immune-suppressed — which includes those on steroids — and therefore very vulnerable to chickenpox, can be protected by having injections after they have been in contact with a case. They should certainly see their doctors so that this may be done.

It would be a pity if Lexie's case was allowed to detract from the huge benefit that thousands of people with a wide range of diseases derive from steroid therapy. Steroid drugs cause well recognised side-effects, which in occasional cases can be severe, but they are frequently life-saving and their use represents one of the great advances of medicine in the past 40 years.

هكذا من الأصل

The clue to health is in the size of the waist

the better

Calvin Klein is just one of the couture labels to be found at Oxfam shops. There is a rapid turnover of designer clothes in charity shops, where outfits sell for a fraction of their original price

Why second-hand is chic

Thrift-shop threads are about making a fashion statement. **Bill Frost** reports on how the charity shop has become part of the culture of cool

Business has never been better for Britain's charity shops with demand for second-hand chic fast outstripping supply.

In the Nineties, the number of charity shops on our high streets has risen by two-thirds to more than 5,000 and turnover has doubled to almost £300 million a year, according to the market research company Mintel. "Every indication is that second-hand clothes buying is growing fast among socio-economic ABs," said a spokeswoman.

Oxfam saw sales increase by 5 per cent last year to £56 million, earning the charity a profit of £15 million. Such is the current level of business, there are plans now to import second-hand designer clothes from Europe.

To the ill-disguised irritation of the National Chamber of Trade, which represents high-street chains, charity shops are given trading advantages. They get relief on business rates and do not have to pay income tax or VAT on donated goods.

The chamber's loss is the bargain hunter's gain. All it takes to create the cheapest of outfits is imagination and the time to sort through the prizes.

When the rich and fashionable make mistakes, they do it in style. Imagine splashing out £3,000 on a Versace number and wearing it just once before realising that the colour didn't *quite* suit. Each dress on the charity shop rail tells a story of rejection: Kenzo, Lacroix, Dior and Chanel bought and abandoned on a whim. Indeed, from SW3 to Cheltenham, from Harrogate to Edinburgh, and Oxford to Bath, yesterday's creations are being tossed aside in favour of tomorrow's extravagance.

Such profligacy has fuelled Britain's fastest-growing fashion phenomenon — charity-shop chic. Bargain hunters scour the high-street rails now when once they would have recoiled from the stigma of wearing second-hand clothes.

The dowdy frocks and dun-coloured jackets have gone and among those who used to bandy designer labels about, the fashionable names to mention are Sue Ryder, Oxfam and Barnardos. Thrift shops are the pastures new where a cast-off helps to create a wealthier wardrobe.

The model Iris Palmer, who struts the catwalks wearing couture clothes, travels far and wide in her search for charity-shop chic. Her happiest hunting ground is the Sue Ryder shop in Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

Her latest prize — a slinky red top — cost less than £10, a fraction of the initial price. "I would imagine the original owner paid well over £200 for this and hardly wore it. As you can see, it is almost new."

Ms Palmer's mission is to "spread the word that thrift threads are part of the culture of cool". She has no qualms about wearing other people's clothes. "You are picking up on their experiences, too. If you have on something slinky you bought from a charity shop, just stop and think what kind of sexy time they had wearing it."

Anita Pallenberg, actress, partner of at least three Rolling Stones and reformed junkie, now has a new addiction: second-hand style. "It's a bit like taking drugs or drinking. I roam around and get off on the fact that I can find something cheap. Whenever I get that compulsion to make myself feel better, I go to the second-hand shop. The other day I went out at 2pm and at 5pm I was still in that shop, rummaging and talking. It's part of my thing."

When she was the companion of Jagger, Jones or Richards, Ms Pallenberg wore her designer labels once before consigning them to the wardrobe of history. Now she buys from the charity shop and then returns the frock.

Joan Kirk, manager of the Sue Ryder Foundation shop on Kings Road, is almost blasé about her stock. "We can offer a marvellous selection any day of the week — remember that the clothes we are given come from people in Chelsea and Belgravia, an amazing catchment area. They tend only to have been worn once and are always dry cleaned before being donated.

"Today I can show you a Jasper Conran skirt [£30, price new £300]; Yves Saint Laurent suede trousers [a fraction of the original cost]; an Aquascutum dress; a Cerruti man's suit; or an Armani man's suit."

In Oxfam's shop in Kings Road, the tills are ringing as never before as bargain hunters ravage the rails. Pat Drever, one of the volunteer counter staff, boasts an embarrassment of designer labels.

"Kenzo, Katherine Hamnett, Nicole Farhi, Edina Ronay, Lagerfeld and Kurt Geiger shoes at £25 — the original purchaser paid ten times that amount. Let's see what else we have ... Boss suits for men, Hardie Amies, Thomas Pink shirts.

"Obviously prices vary — if you are talking a Bruce Oldfield ballgown, expect to pay about £300 — but everything has been dry cleaned — we don't want any dirty clothes in the shop.

"Designer labels do not hang around for long — there is a very rapid turnover and yet we are not the posh end of Kings Road — the shop is opposite a council estate. We get all sorts here, from Sloanes to people who don't appear to have their bus fare."

Charity style is not one of those London-only fads though, says Lady Ryder, whose foundation runs 573 shops. "We have always aimed to look upmarket, even in the poorest areas. And people are incredibly generous, we have hardly worn designer clothes on the rail all over the place besides the capital: Cheltenham, Harrogate, Aldeburgh and so on."

Cheap Date, a style magazine launched last month, is set to become the thrift chic bible. "If you love second-hand stuff, especially clothes, then this is for you," says the Editor, Kira Joliffe.

"What originally inspired us is the freedom that second-hand buying, or at least getting things cheap, can provide. It's a cliché, but you don't need a lot of money to look sexy, glamorous and cool. We all make some duff decisions, but at least they were cheap. And then there are the real triumphs — just look at this dress I'm wearing."

The figure-hugging chocolate brown silk evening dress is "to die for", says one female onlooker at the Notting Hill launch party for *Cheap Date*.

"Well not really," says Kira. "This is a Forties dress, which cost me £20. Originally, it cost about £400. Goodness knows what that is in today's prices but that's what thrift chic is all about — making a fashion statement and buying a bargain all at the same time."

Minnie Weisz, deputy art editor and photographer, shines in the basement gloom. Her "little red dress — Sue Ryder, of course" — appears to have been made to measure.

"This isn't my favourite, though," she says. "I got this amazing Christian Dior green dress for £6 the other day. The original owner paid £600.

"That's the excitement of the hunt — to find a real treasure that has a history. Who knows the fun that the woman who wore this before me may have had? You are wearing a piece of someone's life and that is really exciting. What's more you have only paid a fraction of the price and that's even more exciting."

ALAN WELLER

George Melly and Iris Palmer at the launch of *Cheap Date*

Lunch is not for wimps

Tunku Varadarajan gets New York food-phobes to rediscover their appetites

I live and work in New York and I'm a wicked, wily, tar-lunged, tannin-tongued, meat-eating, caffeine-quaffing subversive in a suit.

Let me explain. I was at lunch the other day. I won't say with whom, but the occasion was styled as a "working lunch". In New York, working lunches are frugal affairs, where people strive to interest each other in ideas, marketing plans, visions for the future, that sort of thing.

That, of course, is not my idea of lunch at all. Claret should always come first (or, in America, a "Cally Cab Sauv"). Clarity can go to hell.or to the next table.

I arrived at the restaurant a few minutes late, to find my hosts already seated, sipping bottled water. They greeted me warmly, but showed no sign of calling for a wine list or beckoning a *sommelier*. In fact, they decanted *water* into my glass and hit me with that ghastly, virtuous smile born of drinking too much fizzy H_2O and too little vino.

Unable to bear the torment after a sip or two, I blurted out: "I'd like some wine please, if it's not against the rules." Host A, a clean-cut chap with a Kirk Douglas jaw, looked startled, his gaze spinning to meet the eyes of Host B, a frizzy-haired Bette Midler lookalike. "Oh, of course," he said, with slightly delayed graciousness.

There followed a startling metamorphosis. As the wine list came, and I studied it, a liberating breeze blew across our table. Kirk and Bette decided, "what the heck", they'd have some, too. They looked at me with what I took to be thankfulness, a *mucho gracias* for leading them astray.

Next, we examined our menus. Grilled tuna salad for Kirk, Caesar salad for Bette. "I'll have a sirloin steak," I declared. "Medium rare." Once again, my choice appeared to free them from their cage of lettuce leaves. Purring in unison, they plumped for the steak as well.

My, my, I thought, what power I wield over these two repressed specimens of urban American life. But there was more. Come coffee time, both abandoned plans to drink decaf and went for the hard-core stuff. Again, I was the exemplar.

'I'm the first to light up a fag and start to smoke'

Kirk and Bette are New York archetypes — people bursting to be had — and no one bursts more than the closet smoker. At every party I've been to, I'm always the first to pull the packet from the pocket, tap that evil cigarette out, and smoke. There is a gentle clearing of throats, some dirty looks and, occasionally, an open admonition.

Yet always, there are people who sidle up to me and say "Hey, psst ... got another cigarette?" Meet the closet smokers, who long to light up but never dare lest a bolt of anti-smoking wrath smite them on the head. I always give them a fag or two and their reaction is akin to that of freed slaves towards a kindly master.

I have not been beatified yet. But there are now hundreds of New Yorkers who remember me in their prayers every night. For I have given them red meat and wine, and blessed them with my cigarettes. I have rescued them from tyranny and given them a new lease of life.

This little ad could make a big difference to your mortgage.

- It's easy to transfer.
- Our mortgage rate is 7.04% (7.2% APR variable).
- Call us now for more details.

DIRECT LINE

0181 649 9099 LONDON | 0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER | 0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT96

www.directline.co.uk A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Subject to status. Life assurance to cover the loan and security required. Rates correct at 21/7/97. Subject to variation. Written quotations on request. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Calls may be recorded for your added security. Direct Line and the red phone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

Mercedes OWNERS

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £170

Quality Rewarded by Low Insurance
Low Cost Schemes for Mercedes

Tel: 0121 748 2211 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on 0345 123111

Ask for a quote on the Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk

Hill House Hammond
Over 250 Branches Nationwide

P200 MMX™ Best Buy!

FREE 33.6 Voice Modem

Our best selling P200 MMX™ multimedia PC is now available for a sensational £999+ VAT. It comes complete with Intel's high performance 200MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, a massive 32Mb RAM and an enormous 3200Mb high performance hard disk.

Order early and also receive a FREE 33.6 voice modem and a tremendous pre-loaded software bundle. Call direct or visit one of our 32 nationwide retail showrooms now. At just £999 + VAT this surely is the UK's best P200 MMX™ PC offer

All Systems Are Year 2000 Compliant

£999 +VAT
£1173.83 Inc. VAT

The Best P200 MMX™ PC Deal!

P200 MMX™ Intel® Pentium® Processor
33.6 Voice Modem
3.2Gb Hard Disk Drive
32Mb EDO RAM

P200 MMX™ Multimedia Best Buy
- Intel® 200MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- 3.2Gb EIDE hard disk
- 16 MAX CD-ROM drive
- 14" SVGA NI 0.28dp screen (15" extra £100+VAT = £117.50)
- 64-bit Graphics using upto 2Mb system RAM
- Stereo 16-bit sound and stereo speakers
- 256k Pipeline burst cache
- MPEG Facility for MPEG movies on video
- 7 Bay Omega desktop system unit (more expandable than most mini towers)
- FREE Lotus SmartSuite 97 and additional pre-loaded software (limited offer)
- FREE 33.6 voice modem pack (first 2,000 orders only)
- All Standard Features including Microsoft® Windows 95 with manuals and CD, 105 keyboard, PS/2 mouse, Windows 95 with manuals and CD, 1.44Mb floppy drive, advanced future-proof motherboard, year 2000 compliant, with chip upgradeability to Pentium® 233MHz MMX™, parallel port, 2 serial ports, joystick port and 1 year warranty extendable to 5 years, 90 minute video user guide, £75 off Pitman computer training course, 14 day limited money back guarantee (excludes carriage costs)

Product codes: P200 MMX 14" 380-30-538 P200MMX 15" 380-30-462

FREE 33.6 Voice Modem (with first 2,000 orders before offer ends)

FREE Software (Until Offer Ends)

Epson Printer Option
Epson Stylus 200 Colour 720dpi inkjet printer option with both colour and mono cartridges supplied only £130 +VAT = £152.75

Leisure/Educational Bundle Upgrade WinStation™ PLUS models are also available with additional PC joystick, PC microphone and 16 superb CD multimedia titles at only £79 +VAT = (£92.83 inc. VAT) extra. Product codes: P200 MMX™ 14" 380-30-539 / P200 MMX™ 15" 380-30-464

BUY NOW... PAY LATER Interest Free Option
Buy Now... Pay Later Interest Free Option is only available when the above system is purchased with the Leisure/Educational bundle upgrade
0% Interest Free Option

Buy With Confidence From Time
UK's Leading PC Supplier
Full Service And Support
Interest Free Credit
Money Back Guarantee
Choose Direct Or Retail
Time Showroom Locations
32 Showrooms
Powerhouse

Telephone Time Now! Offer Must End 26th July

01282 777 111 TIME

Lines Open: Monday - Friday 8.30am-7.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Granville House, Blackburn Rd. Simonstone, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 7GT

The tough truths of Dearing

David Blunkett on economic realities in further education

Education is this Government's top priority. This is why we are prepared to take the difficult decisions to invest in our future. Since the early 1960s higher education in this country has changed beyond recognition. Thirty years ago, one in 20 young people entered higher education. Today, the figure is one in three. More than half of all students are mature students and just over a third are part-timers. At the same time, public funding per student has fallen by about 25 per cent over the past decade.

Our university system is in crisis. Our competitors in North America and the Far East have more young people going into higher education. Clearly the State should make its contribution and will continue to do so. But it is right, too, that the costs should be shared with those who benefit most, the graduates. The same level of funding for students today as existed in the 1970s would cost the taxpayer £4 billion more per year. If we were to expand access towards a participation rate of 40 per cent, approaching American and Canadian levels, it would cost us an extra £2 billion. Taken together, these demands would add 3p to the basic rate of income tax.

The last Government capped the expansion of higher education and created the present mix of loans, grants and parental contributions. In doing so, they failed to address the financial implications.

However, the Conservatives, with all-party agreement, acknowledged there was a problem and established the Dearing inquiry. His solution and our preferred option — which builds on it — achieve the goals of maintaining quality, increasing access and ensuring that no one is denied entry to higher education because of their financial circumstances. Our solution reflects the graduate's earnings of the future, not the circumstances of today's student.

Everyone has accepted that the status quo is not an option. That is why we have agreed to decisive action.

The Dearing report yesterday recognised that we cannot afford to improve or expand higher education with present funding arrangements. It concluded that students should share both the investment and the advantages which can be gained from higher education.

For that reason the Government accepted Dearing's case for further expansion of access to higher education — and the role that further education can play in this. We welcome proposals for widening participation, including the emphasis on those groups which are under-represented. It is always worth reminding ourselves that adults in further education and part-time students in higher education already pay an average of 25 per cent towards fees and receive virtually no maintenance support. Compared with other countries we offer full-time university students relatively generous financial support.

We have built on Dearing's proposals. Instead of a residual grant, students' living costs will be covered by a maintenance loan of the same value as the current grant and loan package. An additional loan will be available to students equivalent to the tuition fee. We will, however, ensure that the poorest students do not have to pay fees.

We are equally determined that there should be no upfront increase in parental contributions. Our response to Dearing ensures that fees and maintenance taken together do not place an increased burden on middle-income families. Parents at present are expected to contribute up to £2,000 for maintenance.

Top-up tuition fees by individual universities would reduce opportunities for many. They play no part in our proposals.

In order to lessen the impact of repayments in the early years, we believe that they should extend for up to 20 years, depending on the graduate's income, and should be set at an affordable starting point and within a manageable repayment schedule. This will replace the current "mortgage-style" repayments with a fairer system.

Costs must be shared by those who benefit, the graduates

We are determined to ensure that there is access to higher education for all those who can benefit from it. Increased access for socio-economic groups D and E has been only half that of those with higher incomes over the past decade. We are equally determined that the quality and standard of teaching will be raised — and we will publish a White Paper on lifelong learning later this year bringing forward proposals in response to the wider Dearing recommendations.

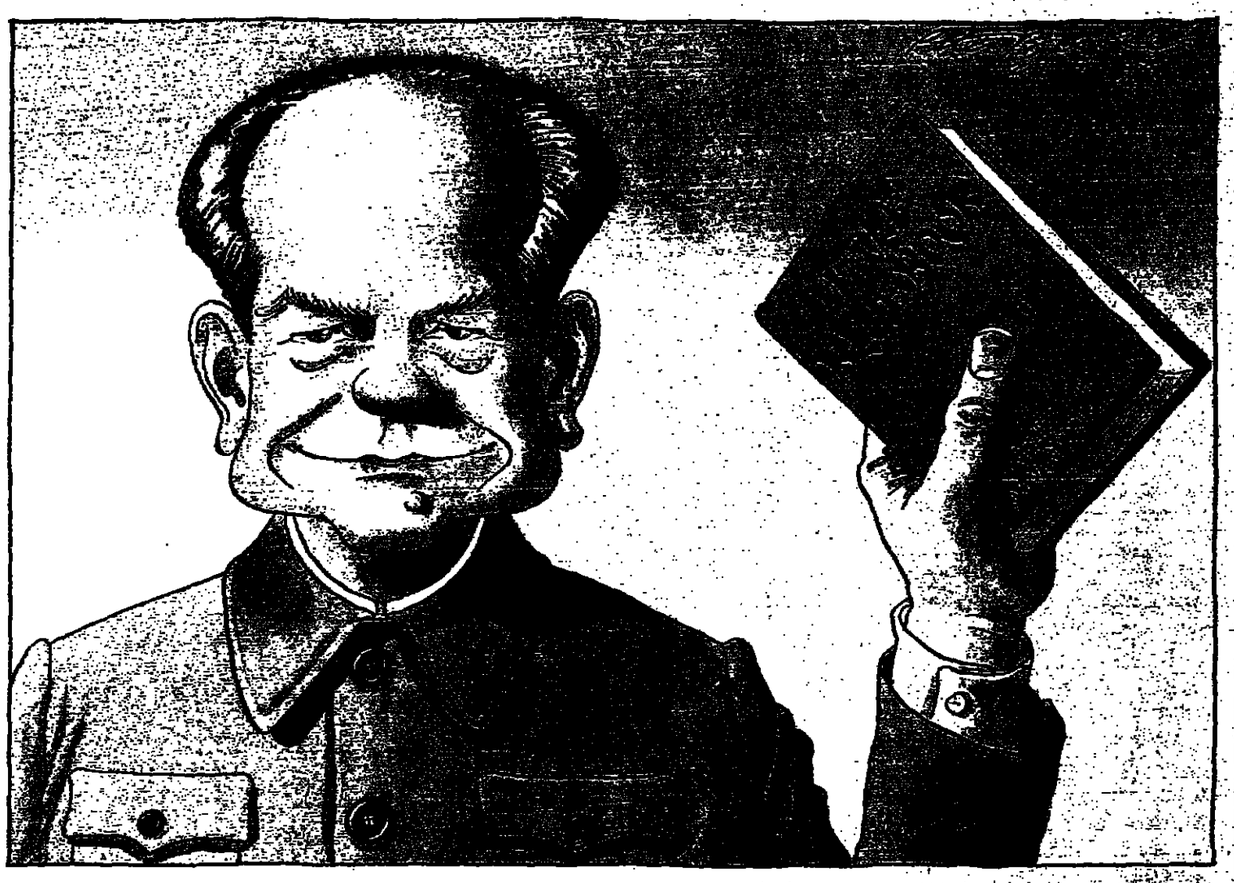
Our plans will also include two other features. First, we will make available a supplementary hardship loan of £250 per year to those who need it. Second, e will consider ways of encouraging people to become teachers or doctors, with the possibility of government bursaries. Other employers will wish to examine similar schemes.

The decisions we took yesterday are tough but fair. Our proposals will mean more money for universities. The Government will ensure that savings are used to improve quality, standards and opportunity for all in further and higher education.

We have been prepared to take difficult decisions. These are proposals from a Government which is prepared to plan ahead for the next 20 years. We know that we cannot defer action to another generation.

Building on the Dearing report we will establish a higher education system that will be good for students, for parents, for the universities, for business and for the future of our nation.

The author is Education and Employment Secretary.



LEADER'S OFFICIAL PORTRAIT (EXCLUSIVE)

Back to 1066 and all that

Labour initiated the first liquidation of empire; now the second has begun

William Rees-Mogg

As we approach the end of Labour's first hundred days, many commentators are still adopting the triumphalist mood of early May. That may be a mistake. Two issues have already emerged which could challenge the Government's standing. How this Parliament develops will largely depend on the way these issues work out: they could decide the outcome of the next general election.

The first is economic. If one leaves aside the abortive Labour Governent of 1924, every Labour Government has been defeated on economic issues. Labour won the election of 1929 a few months before the Wall Street crash: the electoral catastrophe of 1931 eventually followed. In 1945 Labour won the postwar election; devaluation followed in 1949 and election defeat in 1951. Labour won at the top of the Maudling boom of 1964; devaluation came in 1967 and election defeat in 1970. Labour won in 1974 when the Heath-Barber boom was beginning to disintegrate; the IMF arrived in 1976, and election defeat followed in 1979.

Labour tends to be elected at or near the top of the business cycle, not because the electorate is suffering but because it is feeling confident enough to take the Labour risk. As the cycle turns down, the electorate comes to regret its choice; Labour is blamed for the downturn. So far, every Labour Government has seen unemployment higher at the end of its term than it was at the beginning. The 1997 election fits this pattern only too well. If May 1 was not the actual top of this business cycle, it was within a few days of it: since the election there have already been three increases in interest rates.

Last Monday three independent economists told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that they thought there was a serious risk of recession next year. Gavyn Davies, the chief economist of Goldman Sachs, who is an adviser to Gordon Brown, said that the Bank of England is "risking overkill", though he is himself in favour of further interest rate increases. The Bank is almost certain to push interest rates too high. The first experiment in Bank independence cannot be allowed to fail, at least so far as the Bank is concerned. Success will be measured by the control of the inflationary pressures which undoubtedly exist. If there should be a mild recession in 1998, that will be success from the Bank's point of view, but soft landings are not easy to achieve. The 3DM pound is already damaging British exports, and threatening jobs.

By the middle of this Parliament unemployment will probably again be on the rise. The overvaluation on Wall Street, and to a lesser extent of the London stock market, may well be followed by a sharp correction. The Conservatives will say: "We left Labour the strongest economy in 50 years, and Labour has ruined it." Labour could pay a high political price for any "overkill" by the Bank.

However the business cycle, or its postwar equivalent after 1945, is the lesser of the two threats. Labour could certainly recover from a mild recession in 1998 and still win comfortably in 2001. The greater problem is "the question of England". Listening to the committee and report stage debates on the Referendum Bill in the House of Lords, I have been amazed by the insouciance with which the Government has been treating the English reaction to constitutional change.

In August 1947, the Attlee Government gave India independence, subject to partition. It was a butcherly job, presided over with his usual reckless glamour by Mountbatten; it left India with the permanent problem of partition, created a divided Pakistan, which could not hold together, resulted in a million or more deaths in communal riots and marked the effective end of the British Empire. The liquidation took 50 years to complete with the handover of Hong Kong. The process was inevitable, and few parts of it were as badly mishandled as India.

In 1947, people only dimly foresaw that the whole empire would disappear, leaving only Bermuda and a few other islands. In 1956, Eden still fought the Suez campaign to preserve Britain's position in the Middle East; in the 1960s Wilson still wanted to stay "East of Suez". Even those who foresaw that the process would not come to an end before the complete liquidation of empire, assumed that it would still leave an independent United Kingdom, preserving the Monarchy, the sovereignty of Parliament, and the unity of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. At the same time as the last major imperial territory has been handed over to China, this assumption of the survival of a core United Kingdom has been called into question.

Scotland is to be given a referendum on a parliament, and Wales on an assembly; the peace talks in Northern Ireland may lead to separation; the divorce and possible remarriage of the Prince of Wales has brought into question the future of the Monarchy and the Church of England; the House of Commons has sacrificed much of its power to Brussels, while the House of Lords is about to lose its hereditary peers. It took 50 years to liquidate the empire but it looks as if it might take only as many months to determine the liquidation of the United Kingdom.

The economic and social forces which undermine the nation state may now be so strong that the disintegration of the United Kingdom is as unavoidable as was the liquidation of the empire itself. Yet one cannot expect the English people to like it. One would have to go back before 1066 to reach a time when the English nation was as small, as isolated or as weak as it may shortly become. However this process may be judged as part of British history — and British history may be coming to an end — it is, at least potentially, a great catastrophe for the English. When they realise what is happening — if it does happen — they may be very angry.

I have recently been reading an excellent new book on contemporary Russia by Peter Truscott, who is a Labour Euro-MP and a member of the delegation for relations with the Russian Federation. He calls his book *Russia First*; his thesis is that the breakup of the Soviet Union has created a new Russian nationalism. That seems a natural reaction. If the English find that the liquidation of empire has been followed by an unforeseen and rapid liquidation of the United Kingdom itself, we can reasonably expect an "England First" reaction here. Indeed, such a reaction can already be seen in the Conservative Party, which now has no Member of Parliament elected from outside England, and therefore no non-English United Kingdom presence.

I am quite sympathetic to the new Labour Government, and had become disillusioned with the John Major Administration. Yet Tony Blair's Government, certainly as one sees it in the House of Lords, seems to have little sense of the scale of the constitutional problems. These are revolutionary issues. No one can be sure that the second liquidation will not be far more explosive than the first.

One has to look at the broad range of possibilities in the near future. In ten years' time the United Kingdom may have survived, or England might be separated from the other nations of the United Kingdom, though perhaps not from Wales. England may be just a province of Europe, or might have left the European Union. The House of Commons may be reduced to the role of a provincial assembly, or might have recovered its full sovereignty but over a much smaller country. The Queen may still be on the throne, or Prince Charles might be reigning, with or without Queen Camilla, or he might have renounced the throne in favour of Prince William, or England might be a republic. The Church of England may have been disestablished. The House of Lords may have some hereditary peers, or none, or might have been democratised or even abolished. The character, constitution and identity of England may have been wholly changed.

The Government — itself predominantly Scottish — does not yet realise how revolutionary these issues are for the English. Nor is it emotionally or historically prepared to deal with them. This is not a bad Government, but equally it is not yet a mature one. It is approaching one of the climactic points of English history more in the spirit of the young Rattigan than the old Shakespeare. "Anyone for devolution?" is not an adequate question, particularly when the English will never even be asked it.

A tale of two chambers

Magnus Linklater asks: will Scots flee Westminster?

"I still do love the clubbable side," wrote Alan Clark in 1985. "The swinging studded Pugin doors which exclude those unentitled: the abundance of facilities; the deeply comfortable leather chairs at the 'Silent' end of the library, where one can have a sleep as deep and refreshing as under the eaves of the Chalet Caroline . . ." Ah, the discreet charm of the House of Commons, the best club in London. The young Jeremy Thorpe loved the fact that you still had a hook to hang your sword on; the older Jo Grimond confessed that on a good day it was the most exciting place in the world to be.

But if power has been chopped from beneath your feet, is any of that enough to seduce a would-be backbencher, however awestruck? From today the prospect becomes a harsh reality for any MP at Westminster who represents a Scottish constituency. The White Paper on Scottish devolution will go much further than the friendly prospectus for a Welsh assembly which we saw earlier this week. It represents a real tilt of power from London to Edinburgh; the ability to frame legislation and raise taxes will make the new Parliament more than just a talking-shop. Most argument hitherto has been about the likely impact on English MPs. But the real losers will be the existing Scottish Members.

Once a Scottish Parliament is in place, their ability to effect change where it really matters — in their local constituencies — will be all but abolished. Anything to do with hospitals, schools, social services, the law, bureaucracy, planning, will be removed from their sphere of influence. What will be the point of lobbying your Westminster MP if the minister whose ear he claims to have no longer has jurisdiction where it matters? Why bother to travel to London to campaign for legal change if the power to do so is in the Scottish capital? Your MP may still be able to join in debates on Britain's economic policy or foreign affairs. But are these the areas where his voice will make any significant difference? He will become an increasingly emasculated figure, for whom his local electorate might not even bother to turn out in significant numbers.

The House of Lords is a good example of this potential power vacuum. The new Scottish Parliament will (to begin with at any rate) have no upper chamber. There are no plans for a revising body, and the Lords will thus lose the ability to amend or correct Scottish legislation. For Scottish peers this is a major constitutional dilemma — it leaves them, after all, with not a lot to do. Some of them believe there will have to be some substitute; a "House of Lairds" has been mooted, drawing on the Scottish great and good. "I don't see how the Scottish Parliament can revise itself," says Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, a former Scottish Office minister. But, for the moment at least, that is the way it will be.

This shift in the balance of power should go a long way towards answering what has so far been seen as "the Robin Cook question". This asks whether the Foreign Secretary, as an example of a Cabinet minister representing a Scottish constituency, would be prepared to give up his Commons seat and sit in a Scottish Parliament. In fact, Mr Cook is not a good example. His present post will continue to have direct relevance for Scotland, whether arguing for the sales of beef in Brussels, or altering the terms of Gatt in Washington. He is better placed than most to represent the interests of his country.

More relevant might be the case, say, of Helen Liddell, her foot firmly on the first rung of ministerial promotion at the Treasury. Would the Economic Secretary trade the Commons dispatch box for the uncertainty of an Edinburgh Parliament? Or take even that great Westminster democrat, Mr Tam Dalyell. If, despite his very best endeavours, a Scottish Parliament were finally to be introduced, would he still feel he was fulfilling his duties as an MP if he could no longer raise with the minister the state of the waiting lists at Linlithgow hospital?

My own view is that, far from being a drawback, this is a positive advantage. For a Scottish Parliament to succeed, it needs the best and the brightest, and they will only be drawn to a forum where they can exercise real power. If that is Edinburgh rather than Westminster, so much the better. But there could be another solution — the right to represent a constituency both in Westminster and in Scotland; dual membership, in other words, for at least a proportion of Scottish MPs.

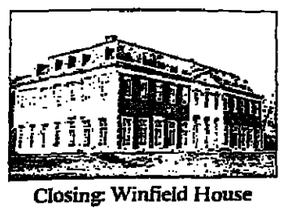
The matter will not, I imagine, be addressed in the White Paper. It has been ruled out by the Labour Party But it has a certain logic to it, and over a longer period may well be seen to have merit — it might be at least half the answer to the West Lothian question.

Like so many of the more pressing issues which will finally be exposed today, this one will not be resolved immediately. Sooner or later, however, it will have to be addressed. The deep deep peace of the Commons library is no substitute for the hurly-burly of political power.

House hunt

WITH the announcement of Phil Lader as the next American Ambassador to London, staff at the embassy are cranking up their search for a house for him when he arrives. Brochures have been ordered and friends consulted about finding a suitable place.

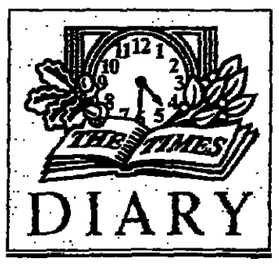
Previous Ambassadors have lived in Winfield House, in Regent's Park, built by the Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton in 1936 and given to America for use by its envoys. It needs an overhaul, however, so Lader must dump his kit-bag elsewhere for a while.



Closing: Winfield House

The embassy is not ruling out putting him in Brixton, Clapham, even Battersea, but is adamant about one particular address: Kensington Palace Gardens, home to the French and Russian Ambassadors, among others. "We will certainly not be renting anywhere near the other residences — the US does not believe in spending that sort of money," said their press officer. A dignified town house with a decent garden in St John's Wood would be ideal.

The last American Ambassador to arrive when Winfield House was being done-up was Walter Annenberg in 1969. Though he went on to become hugely popular, when he presented his credentials to the Queen in front of television cameras his grammar fell to pieces. He said he would be moving into his embassy "subject, of course, to some of the discomfiture as a result of a need for, uh, elements of refurbishment and rehabilitation". Lader, a close friend of Clinton, can be relied upon for a snappier soundbite.



Salad days

BEFORE he set about rebuilding the creaking structures of the Conservative Party yesterday, William Hague will have checked his notes from his last big reorganisational effort. In 1988, he was one of a four-man team recruited from the management consultants McKinsey to launch the Campaign for Oxford to raise funds for the university. "He was extremely easy to get along with," says Dr Henry Drucker, director of the Campaign for Oxford at the time. "But every time he left the room, his colleagues would say 'that guy is going to be a Conservative Prime Minister one day'." Apart from the nauseating remarks, Hague wrote the campaign's mission statement and was regarded as a success. To date, the campaign has raised £342 million, the sort of small-change the Tories could use.

● *There may be an answer to the Tories' conundrum of whether or not to put Michael Heseltine, MP for Henley, up for a peerage. John Major is keen to have him honoured for an immense performance in the last months of the Tory Government, yet promoting him to the Lords would precipitate a by-election which the Tories could do without for a year or two. What about a knighthood, then? This would please Heseltine's wife, Anne, who would become a Lady, while Sir Michael, knight of the shires, could wait for a more convenient time to move upstairs.*

Over and out

FOLLOWING news of the abolition of the annual cricket match between Radley and Marlborough, fears are growing for an even more hallowed institution: the Eton-Harrow clash at Lords. This year the match was held after term was over and for the first time not a ball was bowled, due to rain.

Attendance figures are desperately low and parents no longer buy up the corporate boxes, but it may be Lords' crowded fixture-list which finally kills it off. John Jamieson, assistant secretary of cricket at Lord's, is worried. "Shorter terms and school exams make it very difficult to fit it in at the height of the season," he explains. He will do his best to fit next year's encounter in once the Test dates are available, but after that the match may have to be played at the schools themselves.

"I've finally worked out how to play Warne"

● *Denied entry to the Cave du Roi nightclub in St Tropez recently was the British singer, George Michael. On introducing himself to the bouncer, Michael was told: "I remember you from the 80s. You're just going to have to wait until you're a name again." The bouncer looked very pleased with his joke.*

Saints alive

THERE will be an all-star clerical line-up at St Peter and St Paul Church, in Wantage, on the Saturday after next for the wedding of Mary Loudon, 30, author of *Revelations: The Clergy Questioned*, and Andrew St George, 35, another writer. The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, the former Bishop of Birmingham, will conduct the service, while Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, will be giving the address, decked out in frock-coat and gaiters.

Purple patch: Mary Loudon

There is no risk of the dog-collars putting a dampener on the reception. "Hugh and Robert are a very ribald pair," says Loudon, "so I'm hoping for plenty of bad behaviour."

P·H·S

PRICE OF KNOWLEDGE

A way forward to higher and higher education

Sir Ron Dearing has produced an admirable report and David Blunkett has shown real courage in extending its reach. In his immense and impressive tome, Sir Ron has offered a fine analysis of the challenges that face higher education in this country. In his response yesterday the Secretary of State caught the spirit of necessary change, showing a clear acceptance that the status quo is not an option, that the present level of funding means ever declining standards and that radical action is required.

The problems are manifold. New degrees have been introduced without reference to their standing in the outside world. While this may have been an interesting experience for those who devised the curriculums, they have been less rewarding for those who sat the courses. External examination arrangements have also left much to be desired and require closer scrutiny. If universities aspire to increased resources then they should be obliged to provide better value for them. That was the central and much needed message offered yesterday.

The inevitable interest in the question of student finance has pushed to the margins many other important aspects of Sir Ron's report. That is an understandable but unfortunate outcome. The stress placed on the importance of knowledge — and the provision of flexible qualifications — in an increasingly international context is entirely apt. The committee correctly states that individual ability — and not the short-term calculations of the Treasury — should determine how many young (and older) people enter higher education.

The major dispute between the committee and Mr Blunkett has concerned the funding question. Sir Ron recommended that the present system of student maintenance — 50 per cent loan and 50 per cent grant or parental contribution — should remain but that an annual tuition fee of £1,000 should be charged to all who enter higher education. Mr Blunkett has responded with the bold proposal that grants should be abolished outright in favour of loans but that tuition fees should be related to parental income. The difference between the two packages is superficially subtle but very significant.

The balance of argument favours Mr Blunkett's position. The present mixture of grant, loan, and parental generosity is an unfortunate hybrid. A single loan-based structure would be much more coherent. Furthermore, as Sir Ron concedes, the Dearing proposals would not by themselves produce the resources required to quell the current crisis. The Blunkett scheme clearly would. There seems little point in undertaking an exercise like this and travelling only some of the distance. Softened at the edges by extending the repayments period as Mr Blunkett suggests, the Secretary of State's formula represents a reasonable effort at finding an inevitably elusive balance.

There are two areas where Mr Blunkett should look further. In his statement he expressed outright opposition to certain institutions charging additional or "top-up" tuition fees. Greater flexibility might permit him to tackle the present financial advantage enjoyed by Oxford and Cambridge without threatening their collegiate or tutorial systems. He should also consider reform of the current access fund arrangements to ensure that prospective students from the poorest backgrounds are not discouraged. The allure of higher salaries later in life should logically serve as sufficient inducement in itself; but it may sometimes need some short-term assistance.

A sensible Conservative response would have been broadly supportive while suggesting that the Government went further still. Instead Stephen Dorrell, in a bizarre and unbelievable performance, appeared determined to place himself to the left of Ken Livingstone. That is regrettable. The Dearing committee was created by cross-party consensus and should be considered in that light. The Blunkett package will not be universally popular but it is the best practical means of maintaining our universities.

BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE

Hague offers organisation first, philosophy later

William Hague yesterday promised that the Tory party would, in future, listen, not lecture to the voters. In a careful speech which avoided premature policy prescriptions or early attempts to articulate "the vision thing", the Tory leader concentrated on the necessary lessons his party must learn from Labour's victory. Mr Hague was unsparing in his admission of the scale of defeat and the Tories' own responsibility for their fate. He was also honest in his outline of the internal reform that is needed.

If the Tories are to become relevant again, let alone a threat to the Government, their recovery must be driven, as Mr Hague conceded, by ideas. But even the most glorious intellectual renaissance will be insufficient to bring the party to power if its structures are not overhauled first. In choosing to concentrate on organisation before ideology Mr Hague may disappoint some diehards. But he is making the necessary logistical preparations before a broad strategy can be settled.

Mr Hague's determination to modernise his party by democratising its structures was one of the main themes of his leadership campaign and a project which *The Times* supported strongly. During the course of that campaign the grassroots demonstrated a keen appetite for a better say and Mr Hague, acknowledging the imperfection of the method that brought him to power, promised to offer himself as soon as practicable for endorsement. Yesterday he announced that, this autumn, party members will be given the chance to approve his election and support his reforms.

Cynics, never an under-represented minority in the parliamentary Tory party, have caricatured the "election" as a coronation and any vote in support of reform as a flimsy mandate for a blank cheque. They are people who will not take yes for an answer. Mr Hague is responding to the clearly expressed wishes of his party in the most effective manner possible. The validation of his leadership this autumn will not be as effectively democratic an exercise as a competitive poll which gave every member a vote: but it is a welcome stride in that direction. Future leadership elections will be transparently democratic and this exercise is evidence of the leader's good faith.

The electorate to which Mr Hague will submit himself, and his reforms, is inevitably shrunken. The leader of a party which once boasted more than two million members and now has nearer a tenth of that number speaks with less authority and has far fewer sources of native wisdom than his predecessors. Mr Hague chose yesterday to make an issue of the changes he hopes to make to his party's internal machinery. He has no option but to emphasise how inclusive he hopes it will become.

As well as a sincere attempt to attract more female members and candidates from ethnic minorities Mr Hague served notice that structural change would go beyond personnel and presentation. His proposals to discipline MPs who bring scorn on the party and his willingness to place party funding on a more open basis should help ensure that a party which had almost forgotten how to say sorry has less to apologise for in the future. It will be several months before the precise mechanisms can be put in place to give effect to Mr Hague's intentions but he has, so far, shown a welcome seriousness of intent in learning from his party's humiliation.

SERIOUS OR SMIRK

The truths of political portraiture that never die

A necessary, if hardly radical, part of Mr Hague's campaign for party membership is his official photograph which was released on Tuesday. The Prime Minister too chose this week to promulgate a new image of himself from the camera of that great contemporary icon-maker, Lord Snowdon.

Once upon a time the official oil painting was the way to make Britons see their leaders as their leaders wanted to be seen. This island's history has been admirably marked by portraiture. As well as using such home-bred masters as Gainsborough, the rich and powerful have profited from the skills of painters from abroad, Holbein, Van Dyck and Kneller, who over the centuries made their way to Britain to establish their fame — and make their sitters feel secure.

The traditional painted portrait could be so easily tinted by the vanities of its sitter. Oliver Cromwell may have insisted on "warts and all", but most preferred flattery. Sometimes the deception went too far — as when Holbein's depiction of Anne of Cleves enticed Henry VIII to wed "a Flanders mare". Generally customers were happy

But later the portrait came to reflect the responses of the artist as much as the requirements of the subject. In the 20th century, expression and interpretation predominated. Personality was more exposed than protected. In his 1974 portrait of Harold Wilson, Ruskin Spear subjected the enigmatic Prime Minister to a famously satirical scrutiny, depicting him wreathed in a cloud of pipe smoke. Last year many were shocked by the wrinkled visage and tuberous fingers in Antony Williams's portrait of the Queen. The outcome of a commission was too often unpredictable for the wary sitter. The fate of Graham Sutherland's portrait of Churchill became a lesson to artists and subjects alike.

Now it is the studio photograph that has become the chosen medium for those who want to exert a more dexterous control. The photographer's art is a wily one. The cameraman can combine cosmetics and celluloid to turn almost anyone into a fashion model — and often does.

Mr Blair and Mr Hague have been less artful in their intentions than some: but still their images are meticuously controlled. The Prime Minister, aware of his tendency to present a toothy grin to the camera, has now opted for a studied earnestness. The Leader of the Opposition, who is sometimes — perhaps wrongly — thought humourless, is here seen tentatively smiling. According to Dickens' dictum in *Nicholas Nickleby*, "there are only two styles of portrait painting, the serious and the smirk." Our modern portraitists have ensured this week that some traditions never die.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Letter and spirit of abortion law

From the Chief Executive of Marie Stopes International

Sir, Mr Nicholas Beale, the Reverend Dr J. C. Polkinghorne and Professor Lord Winston misinterpret the terms and provision of the 1967 Abortion Act when they claim (letter, July 17) that legislators clearly intended that "abortions should not be performed if there is no genuine substantial risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or children" (see also letters, July 21).

The principal provision — the so-called "social clause" — under which the vast majority of abortions in this country are carried out, actually provides the less onerous test that the risk to the mental or physical health of the woman or any existing child of the family will be *greater* should the pregnancy continue. There is no requirement to establish any "substantial" risk at all.

All abortions — including those performed at Marie Stopes International's six new day-care units — are carried out in accordance with the 1967 Act as amended, and within the letter and spirit of that law. But the fact that three pre-eminent men can apply their own more stringent moral and ethical interpretation to the legislation, thereby contributing to the atmosphere of public confusion about what is or is not legally permissible, makes the case for reform more pressing than ever.

The uncertainty which currently prevails, and which does nothing but increase the hardship and emotional trauma experienced by women facing unplanned pregnancies, could be resolved simply and justly: by the introduction of new legislation which provides women, rather than doctors, with a genuine right to choose abortion in the first 12 weeks of gestation.

Yours sincerely,
TIM BLACK,
Chief Executive,
Marie Stopes International,
153-157 Cleveland Street, W1.
July 22.

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, There is, indeed, reasonable concern about the number of women seeking abortion ["Abortions rise for first time in five years", report, July 23], and whether more readily accessible facilities might reduce for a few the time to reflect on their decision.

However, for the large number of us who, over many years, conscientiously and actively carried out abortions in the terms and spirit of the 1967 Act, the weight of numbers of women meeting its criteria has been an eloquent indicator of the effects of social stress from faulty personal and family relationships. Indeed, it has often seemed that the various barriers and delays placed in the way of their ready relief were all too often the price of conscience exacted by the uninformed or uninvolved.

By all means let us review the means and the access to them, to give women greater security, and to ensure that children are born into the care of parents who will want and will raise them. But we should be spared yet another attack on one of the most significant pieces of legislation of our generation.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALMENT
(President,
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 1978-81),
Winston House,
Boughton, Northampton.
July 20.

Famine in Korea

From the Director of Programmes of Children's Aid Direct

Sir, Your report (July 17) on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was extremely timely.

The growing stories of near famine for a huge number of people are at last being substantiated by the fact that complete desperation has driven a proud and isolated Government to allow media access to areas not usually visited by foreigners.

The historical and current political situation makes the issue of foreign food aid and other assistance a complicated one.

Following two donations of aid last year, Children's Aid Direct is about to commence a programme of food distribution to 17,000 children in Sunchon City to the north of Pyongyang.

That we are able to do so is the result of a grant from the European Union (European Community Humanitarian Office) and the fact that we feel a responsibility to respond to humanitarian needs wherever they arise.

The children of North Korea are the innocent victims of a situation of which they know nothing and which they certainly cannot influence. Thousands of them will die or suffer appalling illness and malnourishment unless they receive external assistance.

We very much hope that the country's political isolation will not mean that they cannot look to the world community for support and assistance at a time of desperate need.

Yours faithfully,
MARK O. McKEOWN,
Director of Programmes,
Children's Aid Direct,
82 Caversham Road,
Reading, Berkshire.
July 17.

Radio 3's populist policy under fire

From Mr Duncan Rutter

Sir, Richard Morrison ("Radio 3 falls for populist baloney", Arts, July 19) may be right in suggesting that "lack of bottle in tackling the Musicians' Union" is responsible for the BBC's fiscal insouciance in maintaining orchestras where local musical communities already cherish their own. But if so the Government must surely look critically at the way the Corporation spends a licence income given for the most part uncritically by television viewers.

Is the Musicians' Union to get away with forcing an apparently captive customer to buy something he doesn't necessarily want where the National Union of Mineworkers failed?

It is not just the quality of Radio 3 programmes that appears to be paying the price for BBC orchestral overmanning. The listener also wants to hear rather more of the traditionally-based orchestras of this country as an alternative to the BBC's progressive monopoly.

Has any listener research been conducted on so critical a fiscal issue? If so, what was the outcome?

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN RUTTER,
50c Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey.
July 20.

From Professor John Casken

Sir, While there may be grounds for concern about the programming policies of Radio 3 and its increasingly populist content and style of presentation, for Richard Morrison to describe the BBC's orchestras as "five working-day bands" and as "a pointless duplication of resources" is insulting and indefensible — witness the excellent and versatile BBC Philharmonic in Manchester, one of the finest of all our orchestras and one of international standing.

Mr Morrison's suggestion that the BBC should sink its resources into "one truly world-class flagship ensemble", presumably in London, might save the BBC money and might assuage Mr Morrison's nostalgia for a return to the time when Radio 3 was "the envy of the world": but the unashamedly serious nature of classical music needs as much live exposure as possible.

For today's composers, the loss of five independent orchestras would further reduce the possibilities of having his or her large-scale works performed in front of an audience. It would belittle the remarkable achievements of these orchestras in the interpretation of major repertoire, and it would deny audiences new discoveries of all types of music in which the BBC plays a leading role.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CASKEN,
The University of Manchester,
Department of Music,
Denmark Road, Manchester 15.
July 21.

From Mr Nicholas J. Zelle

Sir, Nicholas Kenyon ("Radio 3's big cheese bites back", Arts, July 22) claims to "meet the needs of the serious classical music audience we have identified" — an audience which "has changed hugely in the last few years. It's larger but more volatile, sophisticated but less knowledgeable than it used to be. It wants to learn."

Perhaps this is a false premise and the root of all the problems that we listeners have to endure. Mr Kenyon's catalogue of "what we will be able to expect" reads like an apologist for Channel 5. The jargon he uses — "award-winning, prizewinning" — smacks of Americanism and could refer to loo paper. Titles like *Morning Collection* and *Sounding the Century* are cringe-making. And he can pat himself on the back as much as he likes by claiming to be "excellent and distinctive" but who else is he kidding?

All is not lost. Radio 3 has hung on to its commendable live music policy and its patronage of musicians. But, while it has gone down market, it still fails to attract a larger share of the audience. Oh for the return of old-fashioned BBC style.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS J. ZELLE,
13-15 Gloucester Street, SW1.
July 22.

EU and Estonia

From Mr Kevin Probert

Sir, Integrating Soviet-era *gästarbeiter* into Estonian society is indeed a problem, but Dr Graham Smith (letter, July 22) is wrong to accuse the Government of denying them social rights.

Whether they are Russian citizens or stateless persons, they may live and work in Estonia, enter and leave the country, and even vote in local elections.

Citizenship is required only to vote in parliamentary elections and serve in the army. Russians, Estonians and others live peacefully side by side — in contrast to Northern Ireland.

The evil wrought by Soviet occupation of Estonia was inflicted over decades: as elsewhere in Eastern Europe, it has left a legacy of ecological, infrastructural and human destruction that will take more decades to repair. The people of Estonia are working hard to bring their economy and living standards up to the level of their Scandinavian neighbours.

They know they cannot untwist in a day what was twisted over 50 years.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN PROBERT
(UK resident in Estonia since 1991),
BK Group,
Laki 12, EE0006 Tallinn, Estonia.

From Mr Simon Cave

Sir, A knowledge of the host country's language is a very common prerequisite for citizenship throughout the world. After over 50 years' subjugation to a hated foreign invader, is it any wonder that the Estonians feel so strongly about their language, which — especially as it is not a Slavonic tongue — is such a potent symbol of their national identity?

Some shop windows in Tallinn sum up feelings very succinctly: opening hours are given in Estonian, while closing times are shown in Russian.

Yours etc,
SIMON CAVE,
Watergate,
34 Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey.
July 23.

A common culture

From Mr Loukas N. Kazamias

Sir, The article by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport ("Ministry of all the talents", July 15), was very much to the point of his department's new name and focus, as well as its significance to the economy.

The one flaw in the structure of his "task force" has to be the presence of only six top executives from commerce and industry. Such a body should also be open to contributions from other, less high-profiled, entrepreneurs, utilising an all-round spectrum of commerce and industry and thus giving the new name new dimensions and real "roots". Other government departments could follow suit. A coalition of government and business is paramount for a better tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,
L. N. KAZAMIAS,
87 Wynchgate, Southgate, N14.

From Mr Kelvin Nel

Sir, The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport deserves our praise for realising that his "new" department needed not only a change of name, but of purpose and direction as well. However, I trust that both he and his "high-profile" task force will take account of the many more "low-profile" members of the public who popularise and use our culture, media and sport.

Will Joe Public be regularly informed and consulted on future proposals and developments?

If one or two representatives of the public were actually on this or any other task force, we might have more confidence that the conclusions reached came from the nation, and not just the "experts".

Sincerely,
KELVIN NEL,
3 Leamington Road,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex.
July 15.

Abbey statues

From Professor Emeritus Paul Foster

Sir, In a letter on restoration work at Westminster Abbey [July 12; see also letters, July 19, 23], James Dunnett writes of his regret at the "present divorce between artists and craftsmen" and claims that to ensure the vitality appropriate to the site the sculpting of lifesize figures for the empty niches at the west entrance should be given to artists. A similar distinction to this, but in connection with a mural, led Bishop George Bell in 1954 to sit in his own Consistory Court and deliver what has become known as the Goring Judgment.

In essence Bell argued that creative work in service of the Church was designed "either to edify the beholder or to assist ... worship" but that in both cases the creator would be dependent upon "inspiration ... in order to attain the excitement and heightened perception which should be inherent in the final work".

It was this judgment that released the Church from commissioning the mediocre either in the name of liturgical propriety or, as was then current, in a misplaced belief that the best art should achieve a literal representation of a biblical text.

Today, many artists are proud to emphasise the craft elements in their art and there are many practitioners of a craft who possess a vision as powerful as that held by any artist.

If there is to be a debate of the kind suggested, I would prefer the terms used to be those of inspiration, of vision, and mystery. Or is that asking too much?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FOSTER,
Chichester Institute of Higher Education, Bishop Otter Campus,
Chichester, West Sussex.
July 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

No 'jokers' as the voice of London

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, The policy somersault of the Tories in deciding to accept the proposal for radical changes to London's municipal government (report, July 18) is welcome as far as it goes which, alas, is not very far at all. But, given the collapse of Tory representation in the capital at the general election, it is indeed sad to see that you give valuable space to publish photographs of three Conservatives — Lord Archer, David Mellor and Steven Norris — suggesting that they may fulfil the vital new role of mayor.

The last thing we need are prominent politicians from a party which has just been comprehensively rejected by the electorate. That we need a charismatic figure is accepted, but that is but one of the qualifications which a primary election, when the time comes, will perhaps decide.

Much has happened to London's disadvantage since the then Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, vindictively abolished the GLC. Much has happened since I suggested in a letter (October 30, 1991) that the subsequent void might be replaced with a metropolitan mayor to provide a true voice for London — one, too, with an efficient, strategic back-up organisation that actually has the power to create necessary change.

The daily chaos on London's Tube system provides abundant evidence, if any is required, of the social abdication of which the Tories are guilty, and for which they have paid the price in electoral disaster. But, please, do not offer us any political jokers to put right such an outrageous wrong. London deserves much better than that.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAAMAN,
Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2.
July 21.

Heritage undermined

From the Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Sir, Your report (July 8) on the likely damage to Lord Byron's house, Newstead Abbey, from coal mining highlights an indefensible gap in listed building law. A coal mine first opened before 1948 can continue expanding underground even if this results in damaging or destroying historic buildings on the surface, however important or rare the building.

In theory no building or monument in a traditional mining area is safe. The only requirement is that the mining company must pay for the historic building to be reconstructed subsequently. However carefully this work is undertaken, much of the historic integrity and value of the building will inevitably be lost.

All mines opened after 1948 are subject to planning controls, and there is no reason why older ones should continue to be exempt.

We hope the Government will act quickly to block this dangerous loophole in the law.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP VENNING,
Secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
37 Spital Square, E1.
July 17.

Ban on mobile phones

From Mr Hugh Proctor

Sir, Perhaps Michael Fabricant's Private Member's Bill, to be introduced on July 24, should include crematoria on the list of places where the use of mobile phones is banned or at least restricted (report, July 21).

As an Anglican reader I arrived at our local crematorium a couple of weeks ago to conduct a funeral service to find the preceding one, that of a Chinese gentleman, still in progress. Towards the end of it, a mobile phone went off in the congregation and the owner left his seat and stood in the back corner of the chapel talking loudly in what I assume was one of the Chinese languages (with the occasional "yes", "no" and "OK") whilst the service continued. Members of the congregation turned, scowled and "shushed", which only persuaded the perpetrator to turn his back and talk a bit louder.

A hefty young man then sprang from his seat, grabbed the talker by the shoulders and none too gently threw him out through the side door.

Perhaps a fitting response in other places?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH PROCTOR,
4 Dovecote Lane,
Beeston, Nottingham.
hjproctor@proweb.co.uk
July 21

Bright and early

From Professor J. L. Wilson

Sir, I have just received *prima facie* evidence that Sir Ron Dearing is out of touch with the world of higher education.

Interviewed this morning on the *Today* programme at 7.40am, in the long vacation, he optimistically uttered the words: "May I say this to the students that are listening ...".

Yours faithfully,
J. L. WILSON,
Wholeway, Harlton, Cambridge.
July 23.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 23: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Captain Narbahadur Gurung. The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and Captain Govinde Gurung. The Queen's Gurkha Signals, (The Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers) were received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested them with the Insignia of Members of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mrs Eileen Meadmore (Chairman) and Mrs Beryl Brown (Treasurer) were received by The Queen and presented to Her Majesty the Centenary Medal from the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

The Rt Hon Anthony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Association for Prevention of Addiction at 67-69 Cowcross Street, Smithfield, London EC1, and later visited the 493 Project, 493 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Hurlingham Polo Association, this evening attended a Dinner at the Turf Club, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 23: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning received Award participants on an exchange between Hillingdon and Lesotho, at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 23: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this morning opened the Garfield Weston Education Centre, Kings College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Bessemer Road, London SE5.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, this afternoon received Professor Andrew Rutherford upon relinquishing his appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

The Princess Royal, Patron, European Pony Championships 1997, this evening attended the opening ceremony at Hartpury College, Gloucester, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 23: Mrs Eileen Meadmore (Chairman) and Mrs Beryl Brown (Treasurer) were today received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and presented to Her Majesty the Centenary Medal from the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 23: The Prince of Wales, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, this morning chaired a meeting at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, this afternoon gave a Reception at St James's Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 23: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon took the salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
July 23: Princess Alexandra today visited the Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Powys (Mr Mervyn Bourdillon).

BBC finds siblings living in harmony

By Damian Whitworth

AUDITIONS to find the best young musician in Britain appear to prove that in the current generation talent really does run in families. In past years the BBC's Young Musicians competition has occasionally unearthed siblings rivalling each other in front of the judges. This year 11 pairs are taking part.

More than 500 under-19-year-olds have been auditioning this week to win a place in the regional finals that precede semi-finals and a televised final in Belfast next spring. The family connections have astonished the organisers.

"We can't really fathom it. It's bizarre," a spokesman said. "It's an odd statistic but it does show that music tends to be an inherited talent."

Magnus, 17, and Guy Johnston, 16, from Harpenden, Hertfordshire, whose parents are professional musicians, play the violin and cello respectively, were only thwarted from forming a trio of competitors with their older brother Rupert, 19, when he was involved in a serious car accident recently.

Guy said: "It was our parents' dream to have all three of us taking part but Rupert is making a slow recovery."

Sally Pryce, who is 18 on Friday and her sister Katie, 15, from Kingsbury, north London were in the last contest and both reached the semi-finals for harp and French horn respectively.

CHRIS HARRIS

Sally and Katie Pryce with Magnus and Guy Johnston, two of the pairs of siblings

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J. Benson and Miss C. Usher
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr David and Lady Elizabeth Benson, and Cecilia, daughter of Mr Tim Usher and Mrs Sally Usher.

Mr J.A.C. Scrimgeour and Miss A.L. Buxton
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr Simon Scrimgeour, of Rozel, Jersey, and Mrs Jennifer Scrimgeour, of Kensington, London, and Zanna, daughter of the Hon Timothy Buxton, of Coneysthorpe, North Yorkshire, and Mrs Julie Parker, of Barnes, London.

Mr R.B.M. Barnes and Miss J.M. Crook
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr and Mrs K.M. Barnes, of Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, and Julia, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Crook, of Bickley, Kent.

Mr J.H. Booth-Clibborn and Miss A.J. Hill
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr Edward Booth-Clibborn, of Kensington and Mrs Dawn Booth-Clibborn, of Fulham, and Ann, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Christopher Hill, of Northampton.

Mr S.P. Butler and Miss L.J. deM. Benzecry
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anton Butler, of Constantia, Cape Town, South Africa, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Cecil Benzecry, of Ashtead, Surrey.

Mr R. Hutchinson and Miss S. Behrmann
The engagement is announced between Robert Hutchinson, of Pimlico, London, and Susan Behrmann, of Chelsea, London.

Mr J.M. Swales and Miss H.M. Richardson
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Dr and Mrs Anthony Swales, of Salen, Argyll, and Hope, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stanley Richardson, of Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

Mr H.J. Watchorn and Miss S.M. Oke
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of the late Mr C. Watchorn and of Mrs V. Watchorn, of Penarth, South Glamorgan, and Susannah, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.T. Oke, of Louth, Lincolnshire.

Mr P.H.L. Telegdy and Miss A.J. Doxford
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Telegdy, of Gargrave, Yorkshire, and Annabelle, elder daughter of the late Mr Michael Doxford and of Mrs James Gladstone, of Marsh Benham, Newbury.

Mr T.J. West and Miss M.L. Roe
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs Valentine West, of Colchester, Essex, and Lucy, daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony Roe, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Marriages

Mr D. Crossley-Holland Miss S. Pearson
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 19, at St Swithin's, Bath, between Mr Dominic Crossley-Holland, younger son of Mr Kevin Crossley-Holland, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, and of Mrs Caroline Hickey, of Seaborough, Dorset, and Miss Sophie Pearson, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Pearson, of Bath. The Rev Hartmut Kopsch officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alice Mannering and Eleanor Crossley-Holland. Mr Richard Micchelli was best man.

The reception was held at Guyers House, Corsham, and the honeymoon is being spent in Kenya and the Seychelles.

Mr A.R. Yates and Miss S.J. Spice
The marriage took place on Saturday, June 21, at the Church of St Peter, Bocking, of Mr Alan Yates, son of the late Mr Eric Yates and of Mrs Yates, of Ilford, Essex, to Miss Susan Spice, daughter of Mr Norman Spice and the late Mrs Spice, of Braintree, Essex. The Very Rev Philip Need officiated.

The bride who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Stephanie Sweet, Miss Lisa Mark, Vicky Chambers and Elouisa Gilder-Bittle. Mr Stephen Micklethwaite was best man.

Birthdays today

Mr John Ambler, former chairman, Texaco, 63; Baroness Blatch, 60; Mr Julian Brazier, MP, 44; Mr George H. Brown, film producer, 84; Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman, Lex Service, 62; Mr Robin Cutler, former director-general, Forestry Commission, 63; Lord Digby, 73; Lord Fisher, 76; Sir Edward Ford, secretary and registrar, Order of Merit, 87; M Jacques Fouroux, former rugby player, 50; Professor Derek Fraser, Vice-Chancellor, Teesside University, 57; Lord Hambro, 67; Mr J.W. Hele, former High Master, St Paul's School, 71; Sir Gordon Hourston, pharmacist, 63; Mr Wilfred Josephs, composer, 70; Vice-Admiral Sir David Loram, 73; Mr Neil McIntosh, former director, VSO, 50; Mr Edwin Mirvish, proprietor, Old Vic Theatre, 83; Lord Simon of Highbury, 58; Mr Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, 46; Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, EMI Group, 59; Miss Nora Swinburne, actress, 95; Mr Quinlan Terry, architect, 60; Professor Frank Thistlethwaite, founding Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia, 82; Mr Peter Yates, film director and producer, 68.

Drapers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Drapers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper; Wardens, Mr Nicholas Playne, Mr John Padovan, Mr Antony Woodall, Mr Christian Williams.

Retirement

Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, has retired from the Circuit Bench on the South Eastern Circuit.

Latest wills

Kathleen **Phillips**, farmer and Lloyd's underwriter, of Hayes, Bedfordshire, left estate valued at £2,177,161 net.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace at 4.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, will present the 1997 City and Guilds Prince Philip Medal and Silver and Bronze Medals at Buckingham Palace at 11.30, followed by luncheon at the Connaught Hotel at 12.30. As Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and Patron, Outward Bound Trust, he will attend a dinner at Grosvenor House at 6.55.

The Duke of York, as Patron, will take the salute at the evening performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court at 7.15.

The Duke of Kent will visit Notcutts Nurseries, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge at 11.00; and will open the Abbeyfield Orwell Society's Paddy Geere House, Congreve Road, Ipswich at 1.45.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron, will attend a service of thanksgiving to mark the 30th anniversary of St Christopher's Hospice, Southwark Cathedral at 6.55.

Service luncheon

RNC Greenwich 1947 Term of Sub Lieutenants
The Royal Naval College Greenwich 1947 Term of Sub Lieutenants held a 50th anniversary luncheon on board *HMS President*, by permission of the Commanding Officer, the London Division, Royal Naval Reserve. Commander G.M.B. Selous presided.

University news

Cambridge
Queens' College
To a Bye Fellowship in Mathematics from Oct 1: Oliver Bühler.

Selwyn College
Elected to Trevelyan Research Fellowship from Oct 1: Simon Timmuss

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Curran, Irish statesman, Newmarket, Co Cork, 1750; Simon Bolivar, "Liberator" of South America, Caracas, Venezuela, 1783; Alexandre Dumas *père*, novelist and playwright, Villers-Cotterêts, 1802; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Hanover, 1864; E.F. Benson, novelist, Wellington College, Berkshire, 1867; Edward John Plunkett, 18th Baron of Dunsany, writer, London, 1878; Ernst Bloch, composer, Geneva, 1880; Amelia Earhart, aviator, Atchison, Kansas, 1897.

DEATHS: George Vertue, engraver, London, 1756; John Sell Cotman, water-colourist, London, 1842; Martin van Buren, eighth American President 1837-41, Kinderhook, New York, 1862; Matthew Webb, the first English Channel swimmer, drowned in an attempt to swim the Niagara Falls rapids, 1883; Sacha Guitry, actor and playwright, Paris, 1957; Sir James Chadwick, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, 1974; Peter Sellers, actor, London, 1980.

Jacques Cartier landed in Canada claiming the country for France, 1534.

Abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, 1567.

First life peerages established in Britain, 1958.

Gibraltar taken by the British, 1704.

Lord Inge

The life barony conferred upon Field Marshal Sir Peter Anthony Inge has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Inge**, of Richmond in the County of North Yorkshire.

Well-versed researcher solves a Roman riddle

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

THE mystery of the Roman acronyms has been solved — with the aid of a standard dictionary. Two cryptic inscriptions on coins minted more than 1,700 years ago have proved to be the initial letters of phrases from a famous poem by Virgil.

The source of the enigma was the usurper Carausius, commander of the fleet based in Britain who in AD 287 declared himself Roman Emperor and defied the established emperors Diocletian and Maximian. He ruled for six years, until he was murdered by his finance minister Allectus in 293.

Among his coins is one in the British Museum depicting a victory chariot, underneath which is the inscription I.N.P.C.D.A, "which has foxed everyone since it turned up in 1931", according to Guy de la Bedoyère, a Roman specialist. Other coins have the equally cryptic RSR, which has been suggested to refer to Allectus as *rationalis summae rei*, a financial official. "The trouble is", Mr de la Bedoyère writes in *Current Archaeology*, "it doesn't appear on any other imperial Roman coins", so that the post cannot have been a normal civil service one.

The answer lies, it would seem, not in the field of economics but in literature: Carausius presented himself as a restorer of old Roman virtues, and evoked Roman legendary history to boost his image. Thus, he used the motto *Expectate veni*, "Come, long-awaited one", an allusion to the *Aeneid*, to describe himself on one of his coin issues.

With this in mind, Mr de la Bedoyère started to look at Virgil as a possible source for the acronyms on the other coins. Within a few minutes he had found what seems to be the answer in a well-known phrase cited in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. In Eclogue IV, lines 6-7, he read: *Redeunt Saturnia Regna* (with RSR as its initial letters), and *Iam Nova Progenies Caelo Demittitur Alto*, spelling out INPCDA.

This translates as "The Reign of Saturn (ie the Golden Age) returns: now a new generation comes down from heaven above". "It all means exactly what Carausius wanted to say — in fact they were probably his slogans," Mr de la Bedoyère says. "New Emperor, Old Virtues" in modern election-speak.

Luncheons

Plumbers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Clive Martin and Colonel M. Carnegie-Brown, presented the Plumbers' Company 1997 award to Acting Leading Marine Artificer S. Simms of *HMS Sultan* and the Saint Michael Medallion to Liveryman Terry Fillary at the July Court luncheon held yesterday at Ironmongers' Hall. Mr Charles Smith, Master, presided, assisted by Mr P. R. Brunner, Upper Warden, and Mr E.W. Hopkinson, Renter Warden. The Dean of St Paul's was among those present.

Anglo-Colombian Society
The annual Independence Day (July 20) luncheon of the Anglo-Colombian Society was held yesterday at Grosvenor House. Dr Carlos Lemos Simmonds, Vice-President of Colombia and president of the society, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein and Mr Alastair Forsyth, chairman, were the speakers.

Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge

The life barony conferred upon Sir Michael Colin Cowdrey has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge**, of Tonbridge in the County of Kent.

Baron Russell-Johnston

The life barony conferred upon Sir David Russell Russell-Johnston has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Russell-Johnston**, of Minginish in Highlands.

Dinner

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner last night at the Mansion House the Lord Chancellor and Lady Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chief Justice and Lady Bingham of Cornhill, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Woolf, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court and Lady Scott, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown and other of Her Majesty's Judges, Aldermen, Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner and some members of the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts.

The Lord Mayor, the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice were the speakers. Among others present were:

Sir Edward and Lady Howard, the Lord Advocate and Lady Hardie, the Attorney-General and Mrs Morris, the Solicitor-General and Lady Falconer of Thoroton, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland and Lady Carswell, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Cooke of Thorndon, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton, Sir Thomas Legg, QC, and Lady Legg, the Master of the Solicitors' Company and Mrs Avery-Jones, the Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate and Mrs Badge, the Chairman of the Council of the Bar and Mrs Owen, Mr Keith Vaz, MP, asnd Mrs Vaz and Mr and Mrs R L Turner.

Appointment

Mr David Broucher to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic from October in succession to Sir Michael Burton who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Memorial services

Miss Josephine Child
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Josephine Heather Child, calligrapher, artist and author, was held yesterday at St Peter's, Petersfield. The Rev Robin Denniston officiated and gave an address, assisted by the Rev Sue Roberts. Mr Simon Mackarness read the lesson.

Mr Lloyd Turner
A memorial service for Mr Lloyd Turner, former Editor of the *Daily Star*, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated and Mr Richard Stott read the lesson. Mr Peter Tory read *If* by Rudyard Kipling and Mr Ray Mills read *Remember* by Christina Rossetti. Sir Jocelyn Stevens gave an address.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Christopher Bull, Priest-in-Charge, Flackwell Heath (Oxford): to be *also* Rural Dean of Wycombe (same diocese).

The Rev Dr David Chantrey, Rector, Beckbury Group of Churches (Lichfield): to be *also* Chairman, Caris (Care, Action, Responsibility and Justice in Society) (same diocese).

The Rev Philip Dallaway, Priest-in-Charge, Didcot All Saints (Oxford): to be Rector (same benefice).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

David said to him, 'Do Saul no harm. Who has ever lifted his hand against the Lord's anointed and gone unpunished?' 1 Samuel 26 : 9

BIRTHS

ALTMAN - On July 19th, to Charlotte (née Parkin) and Brian, a daughter, Lydia Henrietta Sadie, a sister for Frederick and Georgina.

BANHAM - On July 22nd at Adventist Hospital, Hong Kong, to Tony and Rowena (née Abuan), a son, Mark Jefferson Reyner. Paulatim Pervenimus.

BURLES - On 19th July, to Sarah (née Rowe) and Barry, a son, Charles William, a brother for George.

CALDECOTT - On July 17th, to Dominic and Sarah, a daughter, a sister for Thomas, Freddie and Rufus.

DONOVAN - On July 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Lorraine, a son, Benjamin, a brother for Maison.

DOYLE - On July 21st, to Jessica (née Georgiades) and James, a daughter, Pansy Georgia, a sister for India and Lallie.

DYMOKE - On 19th July, at home, to Kathryn (née Topham) and Charles, a son, Archie Charles Lindley, a brother for Jasper and Angus.

ELEFTHERIOU - On July 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Jeanette and Theo, a beautiful daughter, Lara Pamela.

JARRETT - On Friday 18th July 1997, to Emma (née Ashenden) and Jonathan, a beautiful daughter, Kate Mary Ann (Katie). With special thanks to all at The Lister Hospital.

MAYHEW - On 5th July 1997, to Lisa and James, a daughter, Harriet Anna, a sister for Sophie.

MURLEY - On July 20th, to Sarah (née Wedd) and Anthony, a daughter, Annabel Catherine Wedd, a sister for Toby.

MURPHY - On July 14th at Queen Charlotte's, London, to Beverley (née Ker) and Robert, a son, Alec Felix Teddy, a brother for Freddie and Angus.

BIRTHS

PARKIN - See Altman.

POLK - On 18th July, to Brian Polk and Catharine MacMillan, a son, Henry Ambrose MacMillan Polk. A brother for Margaret.

RENOUF - On 17th July, to George and Karen, a son, James Thomas McGregor, a brother for Max.

ROGOWSKI - On July 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Mary and Bob, a son, Mitchell Gerard. What a birthday gift for Dad!!!

TOWERS - On 16th July 1997, to Sarah-Jane (née Bassett) and Simon Paul, a beautiful daughter, Daisy Isabelle.

WALLACE - On 21st July at The Portland Hospital, to Laura (née Harcourt) and Bob, a son, a brother for Octavia.

DEATHS

ARMSTRONG-JAMES - Henry peacefully on 21st July in his 82nd year at All Hallows Hospital, Ditchingham, Norfolk. Beloved husband of Enid and dearly loved father of Maureen and Michael and brother of Elizabeth, cherished grandfather to five and great-grandfather to five. Formerly of Westminster College, Oxford and Principal of Sunderland College of Education. War Service 1st Survey Regiment, R.A., 8th & 14th Army. Private cremation. Donations if desired to All Hallows Hospital.

BAINBRIDGE - Michael died peacefully on 11th June 1997 at North Devon District Hospital. Good friend of David Hobbs who died on 15th June 1997. Will be sadly missed.

FOOT - On 20th July, David Robert Paterson. "In Thy presence is fullness of joy". Beloved husband of Helen, father, grandfather and brother. Funeral Service at St Peters Upper Church, Pembury, Kent at 2.30 pm on 29th July. Family flowers only, but donations enquiries to E.R. Hickmott & Son. Tel: (01892) 522462.

DEATHS

HARPER - Mary on 21st July peacefully. Devoted wife of the late Tony and mother of Carolina. Funeral 30th July 2pm at Appledore.

HOBBS - David died peacefully on 15th June 1997 at Torrington Cottage Hospital. Good friend of Michael Bainbridge who died on 11th June 1997. Will be sadly missed.

MACAULAY - Colin Alexander. Peacefully, in Toronto, Canada on July 22nd, 1997, in his 66th year. Husband of Elizabeth (Rowsell). Father of Doug (Alexandra) of Ottawa; Jim of South Africa and Rob (Cheri) of Calgary. Survived by five grandchildren. Private family service. Cremation. Arrangements under the direction of the Humphrey Funeral Home - A.W. Miles Chapel, (416) 487-4523.

MILNER - Eric Charles Milner, 17th May 1928 - 20th July 1997, died peacefully at age 69 at his home, 3020 Underhill Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his first wife, Estelle. He leaves his mother Ann, his wife Elizabeth, his daughter Suzanne, son-in-law David, granddaughters Kendal and Alex, and sons Mark, Paul, Simon and Robert. A celebration of Eric's life will be held at The University of Calgary in due course. Gifts in his memory may be made to The University of Calgary towards the Eric Milner Scholarship Fund.

OWLETT - On 18th July, 1997 at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, peacefully after a short illness. Grace Ruth Owlett, life-long friend of the late Margaret Naunton. Funeral Service at Oare Parish Church on Wednesday July 30th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Oare Church. Marlborough, Wiltshire. Enquiries to Funeral Directors, F. Dewey Ltd., River Street, Pewsey. Tel: (01672) 563440.

PARRY-JONES - Professor William Llywelyn, son of the late Dr. and Mrs W. Parry-Jones and brother of Dr. O.C. Parry-Jones. Dearest and most loving husband of Brenda, devoted and cherished father of Branwen, Celia and Daniel, much loved father-in-law of Michael, Justin and Liz and proud grandfather of Isabel, Emily and Sean William. Died peacefully on Sunday 20th July, at home, surrounded by all his family, after a courageous struggle against cancer. His presence is irreplaceable. Funeral Service followed by burial, for family, close friends and associates at Baldernock Parish Church, Bardowie, Glasgow, at 10 am on Saturday 26th July. Family flowers only, or donations, if desired, to the Beatson Oncology Unit, Western Infirmary, Glasgow. A Memorial Service will be held during October in Glasgow University Chapel.

ROWNTREE - Richard Stephenson on 21st July in York aged 75. Much loved and loving husband, father and grandfather. Service of Thanksgiving on 13th August at 2.15 pm at Pickering Parish Church.

SADARANGANI - Marianne Gerlinde "Min" (née Baumann) aged 53, died peacefully on 20th July 1997 after a courageous fight against cancer. Beloved wife of Harry and mother of Angelina and Suzanne. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium, West Chapel, Ruislip, on Friday 25th July at 2.15 pm. Flowers and/or donations to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

SINGER - Edwin J. died in Caracas on 12th July. Funeral 12.30 pm Friday 25th July in the Windsor Parish Church. Donations to The Prince's Trust. Sadly missed by Rhiannon, Karyn, John and Daniel, Rachel and family, David and Ann.

SMITHER - Sylvia Florence (née Newbold), suddenly and peacefully at her home in London on Sunday, 20th July 1997. Cremation will take place at West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, London W10 4RA at 2.45 pm on Tuesday, 29th July. No flowers, please: she would prefer donations to one of the Cancer charities in memory of her husband Arthur, or to WaterAid.

STURDY - Tabitha Florence Grace. Died on July 19th 1997 aged 17 years after a long and courageous fight against cancer. She was deeply loved by her large family and will be greatly missed. Her fortitude and spirited defiance touched all who knew her. Tabitha's family wish to thank all the medical staff who cared for her, especially Dr. Denise Williams. The funeral service will take place in Gonville and Caius College Chapel, Cambridge, at 11 am on Friday July 25th. May she find peace at last.

WALDEN - Katrina J.M. aged 24. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew's Church, King Edward Road, Oldfield Park, Bath, at 11 am Friday 25th July. Enquiries tel: (01225) 314304.

WARREN - Dr. David John, 22nd July aged 55 at home in Portsmouth. '...with the Lord for ever'. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

WESTMACOTT - Patrick aged 90 on July 21st suddenly at home. Beloved husband of Joan (née Romanes) and father of Caroline Brakspear and of Richard and Christopher, grandfather and great-grandfather. Christmas Island I.O. 1932-49. Funeral Monday July 28th St Mary's Church, Manorowen, Pembs at 11 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Royal British Legion F.E. POW Ass. c/o Lloyds Bank, Fishguard. RIP.

WHITWORTH - On 23rd July, peacefully, Peter, aged 86. Sadly missed by Gill and Ramsay. Private Cremation.

BIRTHDAYS

McPAUL JOHN surprise! happy birthday, love always Nicola, Richard, Jenny, Ian, Simon

SERVICES

COWES WEEK - Luxury Motor Yacht for charter. Hamble Based. Tel 01256 704681

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01252 718909.

WANTED

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, fans, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS
Ryder Cup
World Cup France '98
and All Cricket
RUGBY UNION
Rugby Union
Eng V Australia
Eng V South Africa
Eng V New Zealand
Supertramp, U2
All pop, sport & theatre
0171 323 4480

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCESS TICKETS specialises in all major theatre, pop and sporting events. Tel 0171 821 6616 Fax 0171 828 2807

ALL AVAIL. Clapton in London Phantom, Beauty/Beast, all pop sport & theatre. 0171 379 1640

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, Beauty, all theatre, Oasis, Cricket, all pop. Cricket 0171 480 6183

ALL theatre, concerts & sporting events bookable. Tel 0171 930 3895. Fax 0171 930 3894

ANY TICKET obtained. Theatre, Concerts & any sporting events. 0171 488 4414 (City).

GLYNDEBOURNE 4 tickets for "THEODORA" 10 Aug @ 3.20 pm. Good seats. 01483 266820

ALL TICKETS!
Test Cricket, Ryder Cup
All Int. Rugby Union
U2, Supertramp, Elton John
Phantom, Miss Saigon,
Les Mis etc
All Theatre, Pop & Sport
0171 247 4123
All cc's acc, Free Delivery

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

THE TIMES - 1791-1997 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323 or Call Free 0500 520000

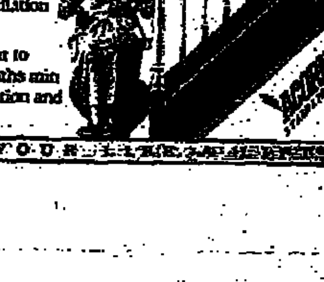
YORK, PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & Door tiles. Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry services. Nat & Internat. del. Holley Hexnall 01380 850039 (Wilts)

SITUATIONS VACANT

AN AWARD winning restaurant, specialising in South Indian vegetarian food is looking for a chef and assistant chef with a minimum of 5 years experience in Kerala cooking. Contact Das on 0171 249 0344

FOR SALE

£10 a week...
...will rent you an Acorn Stairlift.
To find out more, call us now on freefone
0800 19 19 19
- Direct from the manufacturer
- Rent or buy
- Next day installation available
- Initial payment to include 6 months min rental, installation and removal costs



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARTER (Order of), authors would welcome anecdotes, scholarly or not 0171 2481137

MARKET FORCASTING All markets in London & Wall Street are now over.

THOMAS BENSON - From one glamorous old girl, to one handsome new boy, welcome Tommy to the world. Enjoy each chapter of your life. Born 22.7.97, Sevta.

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES
Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to: Mrs J. Neenan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.
Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725
Please include in all correspondence: a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address.
Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.
Advertising Rate is £15.28 per line inc VAT.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
PRIVATE ADVERTISING OPENING TIMES
MONDAY & TUESDAY 9AM-6PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9AM-7PM
FRIDAY 9AM-6PM
SATURDAY 9AM-4PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS IN BRIEF

Railtrack attacked over cash

Blair tells rebels not to go public

Scots face 'loss of world news'

Fourth jail for Isle of Wight

Blair breaks tradition

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN IRVINE

Major-General John Irvine, OBE, Director of Medical Services, British Army of the Rhine, 1973-75, died on July 17 aged 83. He was born on May 31, 1914.

Jack Irvine, as he was known throughout the Army, was a big man in every sense: physically large and robust, he had a hugely warm, generous and outgoing personality to match. If war had not broken out in 1939, he might well have won his Scottish rugby cap as a prop forward that autumn.

His ambition, when a medical student at Glasgow University in the late 1930s, was to become a surgeon. Fate decided otherwise. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps immediately after qualifying in 1940, and his career took a very different turn. It was one more suited to his talents as a tough man of action and a natural leader.

Having served in the field throughout the Mediterranean campaigns, he was clearly more qualified for a command and staff career than for one as a medical specialist. He became one of the first RAMC postwar Staff College graduates.

Surprisingly, he never had the advantage of gaining battle experience as a regimental medical officer. His first postings were on troopships plying from Glasgow to Suez round the Cape. Being an ambitious and forthright young officer, he protested after ministering to several successive troopdecks that, had he wished to serve at sea, he would have joined the Navy.

This *démarche* led to his taking part in the short and bleak campaigns in Greece and Crete before finding himself back at sea in an improvised hospital ship, evacuating casualties from Tobruk and Benghazi during Auchinleck's Crusader offensive and the withdrawal to Gazala in the autumn of 1941.

Just before the Battle of Gazala in June 1942, Irvine was sent to join an ambulance train, which helped to evacuate the large number of casualties from that disastrous battle, and during the subsequent retreat to El Alamein.

He was in medical charge of the 8th Ambulance Train throughout Montgomery's advance from El Alamein to Tunis. During this time, he gained operational experience, and was discovered to have a special aptitude for medical organisation and staff work.

He was promoted major and appointed deputy assistant director of medical services for the invasion of Sicily, and went on as a medical staff officer throughout the Italian Campaign and latterly in Yugoslavia, where he was mentioned in dispatches and commended for an act of gallantry.

After the war, he returned reluctantly to his early ambition of specialising in surgery. Not surprisingly, he found the long hours of hard work in hospital wards tedious. He fell back on his wartime experience and opted to specialise in command and staff work in place of surgery. He graduated from Staff College with the coveted letters psc (passed staff college) after his name.

In his subsequent postwar career, he inspired confidence and respect among "all arms" commanders and staffs for his balanced, down-to-earth judgments, integrity and high personal standards. He was well known for his bonhomie and enjoyment of life. Moreover, he and his wife were extraordinarily generous in their entertainment of colleagues and subordinates alike.

The highlights of his career until he was promoted brigadier in 1968 were: command of a field ambulance in Korea, 1953-54, for which he was appointed OBE (mil); a jungle tour at the height of the Malayan Emergency, 1954-56; command of the military hospital in Accra, Ghana, in 1961; assistant director of medical services of 3rd Division, 1964-67; command of the Aldershot Military Hospital, 1967-68; and two tours in BAOR commanding field ambulances and injecting reality into their unreal world of preparation for nuclear war.

Highly regarded as a trouble-shooter by the Army's medical directorate, he was appointed deputy director of medical services on the Rhine in 1968, and of 1st Corps in the following year. In 1971, he was brought back to Whitehall as a major-general to be deputy to an old friend, Sir Norman Talbot, the Director General of Medical Services. They made an excellent team: Talbot, a distinguished hospital clinician, and Irvine, a highly experienced medical staff officer and commander.

Although he was now clearly part of the Establishment, the "troopship rebel" lay just below the surface, and the set of his jaw was a reminder of the determination of a Glasgow-Scottish prop forward, which, when coupled with his total lack of pretension and pomposity, made him a formidable opponent in Whitehall's corridors of power.

His final appointment in the Army was as Director of Medical Services at HQ BAOR, which gave him the opportunity to display his talents in management and leadership. So successful was he that his appointment was extended to September 1975, one year beyond the normal retirement age.

After he had left the Army, he worked for a time as a Ministry of Defence civilian medical practitioner before retiring finally to live in Cyprus. He returned to Britain later, settling near the Cambridge Military Hospital.

He married Mary McNicol Cossar in 1941. They had a 24-hour honeymoon before he left for the Middle East. They were not reunited until after the end of the war. She survives him, together with their daughter.

NINA COLTART

Nina Coltart, psychoanalyst and psychiatrist, died on June 24 aged 69. She was born on November 21, 1927.

NINA COLTART was one of the most prominent of training analysts, supervisors, teachers and administrators from the early 1970s to her retirement in the mid-1990s. She played an important part in the international psychotherapeutic community for 35 years.

Nina Elizabeth Cameron Coltart and her younger sister, Gill, were born at Shortlands in Kent, where their father worked as a GP. He had married the daughter of his partner, Dr E. A. Hawke from Redruth, Cornwall, and in 1939 the children were evacuated to the Lizard peninsula to be brought up by their grandmother. Their mother and father were killed in an early wartime train accident when Nina was 12.

Nina was educated at Sherborne School for Girls, where she was discouraged from studying the sciences, which she had hoped would lead to a career in medicine, because her maths was weak.

Against fierce postwar competition, she won a place to read modern languages at Somerville College, Oxford, where she became president of the junior common room. Here her medical ambitions were fostered by the college Principal, Dr Janet Vaughan, and she began studying maths, physics and chemistry from scratch. Her reward was a senior state scholarship to Barts (where she also won the open arts scholarship, unhampered by allegedly scoring nought in maths). At Barts she was the first woman editor of the *Barts Journal*, and her very shaky grip on physics was greatly improved by the Nobel prizewinner Joseph Rotblat.

On qualifying, Coltart held various psychiatric posts in the National Health Service, notably at the North Middlesex and Claybury Hospitals. She was analysed by Elizabeth Rosenfeld, who had assisted the Freud family's exodus from Vienna. In 1964 she qualified as an associate member of the British Psycho-Analytical Society, becoming a full member five years later. In 1971 she became a training analyst and supervisor.

From 1972 to 1982 she was director of the London Clinic of Psycho-Analysis, where analysts give their time free. In this role she developed a unique skill in the delicate art of matching patient and therapist. She went on to assess and place more than 3,000 patients.

Privately, she confessed to preferring psychotherapy to psychoanalysis, and she abhorred arrogance, dogma and preaching on any analyst's part. Her own analyses were often profound, but they were phrased in straightforward language, and with a strong sense of humour.

From the mid-1960s she practised Theravada Buddhism, and she was fascinated by the links between Buddhism and psychoanalysis. She chaired the Hampstead Buddhist group for many years, supported the monastery at Great Gaddesden in Hertfordshire, and helped with the founding of the Buddhist monastery at Chithurst, near Petersfield.

Her three books, all published in the 1990s — *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, *How to Survive as a Psychotherapist* and *The Baby and the Bath Water* — were meant for the general reader as much as for the professional one.

Nina Coltart loved travelling and regularly lectured in America, Australasia, Sweden and Israel. Away from work she was a skilled calligrapher, and enjoyed opera and modern fiction. She was unmarried.

RON BERRY

Ron Berry, Welsh novelist, died on July 16 aged 77. He was born on February 23, 1920.

IN NOVELS and short stories, written in his unmistakably individual style, Ron Berry described lives painfully eked out in the underbelly of the society of post-industrial South Wales. His tone was generally rueful, though not bitter. But he pulled no punches.

Life in the Valleys as he depicted it was, if not exactly nasty, brutish and short, then a constant struggle by the little man against the "haves" as he saw them: unscrupulous commercial fat cats; the Establishment at the Welsh Office in Cardiff; or personified by the television producer who has taken *Saesneg* gold and disappeared to a luxurious life at the BBC in London.

Yet, although Berry is regarded as one of Wales's more significant postwar novelists writing in English (along with Glyn Jones and Emyr Humphreys), it may eventually be seen that the short story was his true *métier*. The constraints of the form helped to guard against a sometimes over-lush, sometimes merely messy, prose style. It also restrained a tendency, evident in the novels, to over-excitable descriptions of sexual activity.

But when Berry returned to the novel for the last time, after a quarter of a century, with *This Bygone* (1996), set, this time, in the Valleys of the 1930s and 1940s, it was apparent he was attempting something different from its predecessors. This time the lyrical prose-poetry was carefully calculated — in marked contrast to the uncontrolled breathlessness of the earlier novels. True, there was a suspicion in places that the ghost of Dylan Thomas might lurk obtrusively at the writer's shoulder. But the result was generally hailed as being a moving book which authentically conveyed the life of the South Wales coalfield in its heyday.

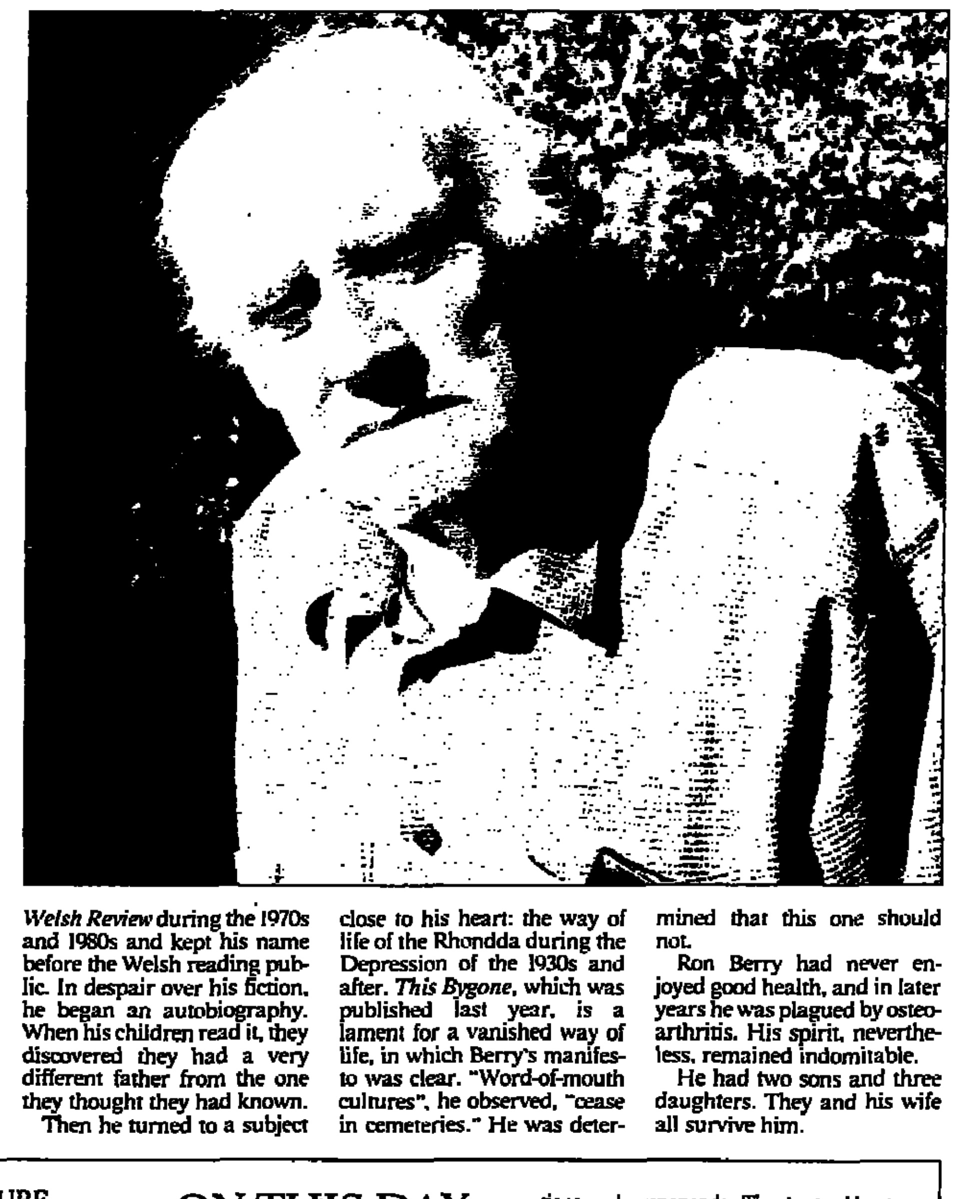
Berry's grandfather had come from England as a farm labourer, hoping for riches from the South Wales coal Klondyke. Ron was born in 1920 in Blaen-cwm, in the Rhondda. He was a natural rebel — miner, navvy, fitter, merchant navy seaman (briefly, during the Second World War), boxer and footballer.

His early life was characterised by a good deal of "ducking and dodging", as he put it, trying to keep out of authority's way but without the funds to do so successfully. The tribulations of this woeful condition are wryly explored in his short stories, many of which smack sharply of the pains of personal experience.

An accident in a football match in 1943 damaged his knee, and he was never to play the game again. At some point he went AWOL from the Ordnance Corps; he then became a carpenter, and made some sort of living on various sites in Wales and London.

He married Rene Jones in 1948, often moving from job to job, and sometimes to no job at all. He began writing poems and essays, but no one wanted to print him. After a spell at Coleg Harlech, a residential college of further education for mature students, and an abortive attempt to enter a teacher training college, he returned with Rene and the children to Treherbert. There, while working as assistant manager at the swimming baths, he wrote his first novel, *Hunters and Hunted* (1960). Set in the imaginary Welsh mining village of Blaenddu (a thinly disguised version of his native place), it somewhat pantingly described the sexual adventures of three young men, and attracted good reviews.

Four novels followed in the next ten years. The last was *So Long, Hector Bebb* (1970), the tale of a second-rate Welsh boxer whose all-absorbing devotion to his craft has tragic domestic consequences. *The Full-Time Amateur* (1966), another libido-filled Valleys performance, attracted the attention of the film-maker, Bryan Forbes, but nothing came of the project.



Then suddenly no one would publish Ron Berry. He accumulated six novels and many more rejection slips. He did some radio and TV work and wrote soccer reports for *The Observer* for a season. He also wrote short stories, a number of which were published in *Planet* and the *New Welsh Review* during the 1970s and 1980s and kept his name before the Welsh reading public. In despair over his fiction, he began an autobiography. When his children read it, they discovered they had a very different father from the one they thought they had known.

Then he turned to a subject close to his heart: the way of life of the Rhondda during the Depression of the 1930s and after. *This Bygone*, which was published last year, is a lament for a vanished way of life, in which Berry's manifesto was clear. "Word-of-mouth cultures", he observed, "cease in cemeteries." He was determined that this one should not.

Ron Berry had never enjoyed good health, and in later years he was plagued by osteoarthritis. His spirit, nevertheless, remained indomitable.

He had two sons and three daughters. They and his wife all survive him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE

BATTERSEA dble rm in 2 bed cottage with gdn, suit N/S prof, £380 pcm + bills, 1 mths dep, refs, avail now. 0171 228 4732

BATTERSEA double room, garden, short term let (neg). No DHSS. £95pw. Tel0171 350 0736

CLAPHAM Lovely room in publisher's family house. Own 'phone line. Nr tube & BR. £79 pw inc. n/s. 0171 228 3362

FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat share service. 0171-589 5491

FULHAM lge single bedroom, with own bath, avail in most comfortable family hse. Nr tube, buses, shps. Gnl N/S only. 6 mths min. £160pw inc utilities. Refs required. Janet 0171 351 5777/0171 731 1733(eve)

KENSINGTON SQ. Designers luxury flat, balcony, tennis court. NA. Sneg. 0171 2292896.

PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE Prof m/s to share well presented 2 bdrm flat by Park. Recently refurb, all mod cons, £385pcm + bills. Tel Louise (w) 0171 367 5543.

W. HAMPSTEAD. Share a beautiful interior decorated 2 bdrm flat w/30s antique furnishings + patio + all mod. cons. Contact Rana @ W: 0141 325 4541/ H 0171 624 0631.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts, hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 654 2424. Retail agents. ABTA E143X

RENTALS

MARYLEBONE LANE W1. Flat for 2 free July 26-12 Aug £235pw Tel0171 935 5107

SW7 Good single rooms in student hall nr Hyde Park. July/ Sept. £90pw. 0171 730 1056.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd. 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accomodation. All Major C.C. German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA 90685 ATOL 2977 IATA.

Monument Travel

Prices fr.

Spain	£59	Greece	£89
Portugal	£59	Turkey	£100
Balearics	£59	Cyprus	£149
Malta	£75	USA	£99
Italy	£75	Canada	£209
Canaries	£79	Australia	£465

01476 404747

LEGAL NOTICES

HARNISCHFEGER (U.K.) LIMITED the ("Company") (Company Number: 2404112)
Pursuant to section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 the Company hereby gives notice that: by written resolution of the Company's shareholders passed on 18 July 1997, the Company approved a payment out of capital pursuant to section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 for the purpose of acquiring 7 of its own ordinary shares of £1 each and the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £7,520,254; the statutory declarations of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at Seaman Works, Seaman Way, Ince, Wigan WN1 3DD; any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 18 July 1997 apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Peter Walker, Director

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
DMJ plc
Registered number: 1745110
Trading name(s):
Nature of business: Buying, packing & selling of meats
Trade classification: 04
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 11 July 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): National Westminster Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers: Roger Mounk & Ian Schneider
Office Holder Nos: 5925 & 1144
Address for both: 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN

Notice of Administration Order
In the matter of Dewbury, Day Securities Limited and in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Registered number: 2672130
Nature of Business: Financiers
Trade classification: 38
Administration Order made: 18 July 1997
PW Wallace and R Hais Joint Administrators (office holder nos 6281 and 10133)

INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

Country (cost per min.)	BT std. Daytime (incl.VAT)	Worldcall Anytime (incl.VAT)
USA	23p	10p
Japan	77p	26p
Hong Kong	69p	39p
Malaysia	£1.08	50p
Phillipines	£1.08	55p
Pakistan	£1.33	80p
India	£1.20	60p
Sri Lanka	£1.33	88p
Austria	39p	28p
Nigeria	£1.05	67p
Ghana	£1.31	67p
UAE	£1.02	55p
Egypt	£1.26	68p
Russia	79p	59p

huge savings

It's so simple...

Simply dial through the Worldcall exchange for clear quality, low cost international calls to over 240 countries.

No installation required, no need to dispense with your current phone company or number and absolutely no additional charges, just constant low rates all day, every day.

24 hours a day

NEW CUSTOMERS £200 towards KUONI Holidays +£10 worth of free calls*

Call Freephone 0800 0747 000

Worldcall For Worldcallers

ON THIS DAY

July 24, 1914

The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, gave the dual monarchy the excuse to attack Serbia. Austria-Hungary accused Serbia of indirect responsibility for the killing and Serbia's placatory reply was rejected.

AUSTRIAN PRESSURE ON SERVIA. PRESENTATION OF NOTE.

The Austro-Hungarian Note was presented to the Servian Government at 6 o'clock last evening by the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Belgrade, General Baron Giesl von Gieslingen. It demands a reply within 48 hours.

The language of the Austro-Hungarian Note is severe, not to say violent. Its tone is that of an indictment. It cites the declaration made by Servia to Austria-Hungary on the advice of the Powers, on March 31, 1909, at the end of the crisis which attended the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It charges Servia with abetting propaganda against the Monarchy and with, at least, indirect responsibility for the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and the Duchess of Hohenberg by Bosnian Serbs at Sarajevo on June 28.

The Note further alleges that it results from the confessions of the perpetrators of the Sarajevo outrage that the assassinations were planned at Belgrade, that the arms and explosives with which the murderers were provided were given to them by Servian officers and officials belonging to an association called the Narodna Obrana, and that the passage into Bosnia of the criminals and of their arms was organized and effected by the chiefs of the Servian Frontier Service.

In view of these circumstances the Note states that it is no longer possible for the Monarchy to maintain the attitude of expectant forbearance hitherto observed, or to tolerate the machinations which it alleges to have been hatched at Belgrade against the territory of the Monarchy. It is therefore compelled to demand from the Servian Government a formal assurance that it condemns this dangerous propaganda, and that it will no longer permit such machinations and propaganda. The Austro-Hungarian Government further demands that a declaration to this effect shall be published in the Servian official journal and embodied in an Army Order; that proceedings shall be instituted against individual subjects of the Servian Crown, with regard to whom specific charges are made; and that the Servian Government should accept the co-operation of the Austro-Hungarian authorities in suppressing propagandist organizations.

BELGRADE, JULY 23.

The Note is in the following terms:-

On March 31, 1989, the Royal Servian Minister in Vienna, on the instructions of the Servian Government, made the following statements to the Imperial and Royal Government:-

"The history of recent years, and in particular the painful events of June 28 last, have shown the existence of Servia of a subversive movement with the object of detaching a part of Austria-Hungary from the Monarchy. The movement, which had its birth under the eyes of the Servian Government, has had consequences on both sides of the Servian frontier in the shape of acts of terrorism and a series of outrages and murders . . ."

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JULY 24 1997

NEWS

Savers reject Nationwide windfall

■ Savers with the Nationwide, Britain's biggest building society, voted by a margin of nearly three to one to forgo a £2,000 windfall in order to retain the society's mutual status. They rejected, by one million votes to 350,000, moves by five rebel candidates, led by the eccentric former royal butler Michael Hardern, to convert the society into a bank.... Page 1

Students will face £10,000 debt

■ Most students will leave university with debts of more than £10,000 as a result of the Government's announcement yesterday that it is to scrap maintenance grants and to introduce fees for full-time university courses. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the changes were necessary to provide more money for a university system that he described as being in crisis.................. Pages 1, 12, 13

Tory shake-up
A ban on foreign donations and disciplinary powers to expel or suspend MPs guilty of gross misconduct were promised by William Hague as part of the biggest shake-up in the Conservative party for more than half a century.......................... Page 1

More Swiss accounts
Another list of about 20,000 dormant prewar accounts is to be published by the Swiss Bankers' Association in October..... Page 1

Peace setback
Ulster Unionists threw the peace process into disarray by voting down the Anglo-Irish plan for IRA disarmament ....Page 2

Jaffa attack
Shaken by the type of horrific terrorist incident to which Israelis have become accustomed, 41 British Jewish teenagers vowed to continue their educational tour which began with an attack on the streets of Old Jaffa.....Page 3

Climbers killed
Two British climbers fell 3,000 ft to their deaths while posing for photographs on a ridge on Mont Blanc in the French Alps.. Page 5

DPP 'error'
Two policemen could be charged with manslaughter after the Director of Public Prosecutions admitted that there had been an error of law in reaching her view not to charge them .... Page 6

Judicial partnership
Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, proposed a new partnership between judges and ministers to give the judiciary input into government policymaking on the justice system........Page 8

Tenancy law battle
The Government faced calls to reform the law after a man who lived with his homosexual partner for almost 20 years lost his battle for the same succession rights as a spouse........... Page 9

Berisha resigns
More than two weeks after his landslide defeat in the Albanian general election, President Berisha resigned .... Page 14

Snatch called off
British forces in Bosnia came within minutes of seizing three indicted war criminals last March but the snatch operation was called off because insecure communications gave the game away .... Page 15

German flood crisis
One of the sodden dykes holding back the torrential Oder river in eastern Germany finally burst, flooding low-lying villages and forcing residents to evacuate their homes .... Page 16

Liberian election
Charles Taylor, the Liberian warlord, won through the ballot box the power he had tried to take by force .... Page 17

Hands-off driver takes to the road

■ No hands; no feet; not even any eyes. On one of America's first stretches of fully automated highway, scheduled to open in 2002, human driver input is discouraged. At a demonstration of the 7.6-mile stretch east of San Diego, a bus driver relinquished all control of his vehicle to a computer and several thousand magnets embedded in the tarmac................ Page 16

SIMON SCHLUTER

Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge, the former cricketer, at the House of Lords with his supporters, Lord Kingsdown (left) and Lord Bramall

BUSINESS

NatWest: The Serious Fraud Office has decided not to investigate events at NatWest Markets that led to a £90 million "black hole" in the books ....Page 25

Economy: Household goods retailers enjoyed a record month in June as consumers rushed to spend their building society windfall payouts..............................Page 25

Building societies: Northern Rock, the building society that is due to float on the stockmarket in October, revealed a fall in half year profits of 27 per cent to £62.6 million ....Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 27.8 to 4874.5. Sterling rose from 105.7 to 106.6 after a rise from $1.6766 to $1.6810 and from DM3.0392 to DM3.0712.......................... Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: After satisfactory preparation for the fourth Test match England cannot afford to be defeated by Australia at Headingley with two matches to play .... Page 48

Football: £9 million is being raised to promote England's attempt to stage the 2006 World Cup, the highest figure spent in trying to bring an international sports event to Britain .... Page 48

Cycling: Neil Stephens, an Australian, rode to the biggest win of his professional career when he won the seventeenth stage of the Tour de France.............................. Page 46

Racing: A crowd limit of 50,000 is to be introduced on each day of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham next year after complaints by spectators about conditions Page 43

Cross-channel: Helena Bonham Carter displays her French in an unremarkable tale of Parisian yuppies, *Portraits Chinois*: also *Palookaville*, an endearing film about bungling crooks...... Page 33

Digging for posterity: A remarkable photographic montage has recorded the work of archaologists at the Iron-Age Segsbury Camp in Oxfordshire....................... Page 34

Porgy moves to LA: Updated to present-day Los Angeles, Götz Friedrich's new staging of *Porgy and Bess* in Bregenz is a powerful demonstration of the continuing relevance of Gershwin.......Page 35

Christie's return: At the Chichester Festival, Julie Christie has opened in Marguerite Duras's moody period-piece, *Suzanna Andler* Page 35

Medical briefing: The benefits of wearing trainers, patterns of weight gain, how older women can stay healthy, male infertility and steroid risks ....Page 18

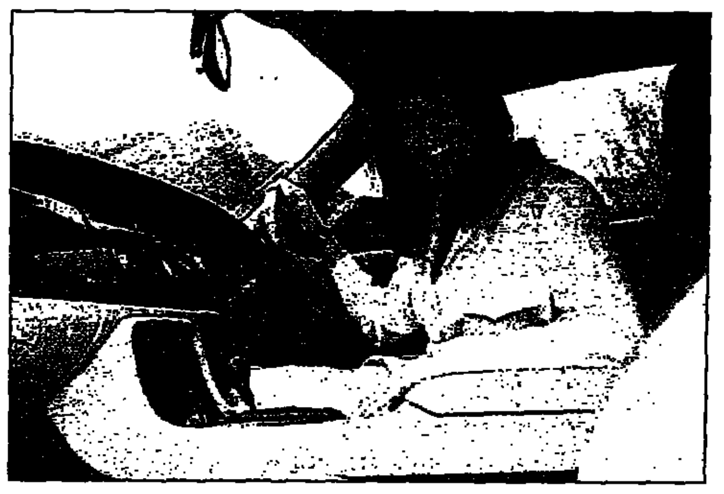
Second-hand chic: Thrift threads are about making a statement: how charity shops have become part of the cool culture..................Page 19

Heavenly creatures: Peter Ackroyd on Oscar Wilde and André Gide; Claire Messud on Fernanda Eberstadt's novel of New York's art world ....Pages 37, 37

We are sailing: A windfall of sea adventures, from the Cutty Sark Tall Ship's Races to the *Endeavour* replica and Cowes Week...Page 41

Call me: How portable technology is working its way into our everyday lives ....Pages 38-39

In his National Day speech the Sovereign was clear in laying down the path to a new political culture. At the same time the King reminded citizens that their legitimate rights always go hand-in-hand with duties. The citizen cannot preach from the moral pulpit if he is riddled with tax and social security fraud — *La Libre Belgique*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **CAR 97**
Is Jaguar's new XK8 really a woman's sports car? Carol Vorderman takes the wheel

■ **WEEKEND**
Orkney's great gift to mankind . . . and other legendary single malts from the islands

Preview: Can society ever forgive a paedophile? *Hunting Bobby Oatway* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on acting that tries to tell the truth.............................Pages 46, 47

Price of knowledge
Sir Ron Dearing has produced an admirable report and David Blunkett has shown real courage in extending its reach............Page 21

Business and pleasure
It will be several months before the precise mechanisms can be put in place to give effect to Mr Hague's intentions but he has, so far, shown a welcome seriousness of intent in learning from his party's humiliation........................Page 21

Serious or smirk
The photographer's art is a wily one. The cameraman can combine cosmetics and celluloid to turn almost anyone into a fashion model — and often does...............Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
I am amazed by the insouciance with which the Government has been treating the English reaction to constitutional change... Page 20

MAGNUS LINKLATER
Why bother to travel to Westminster to campaign for legal change if the power to do so is in the Scottish capital? ....Page 20

DAVID BLUNKETT
Everyone has accepted that the status quo in higher education is not an option. That is why we have agreed to decisive action .. Page 20

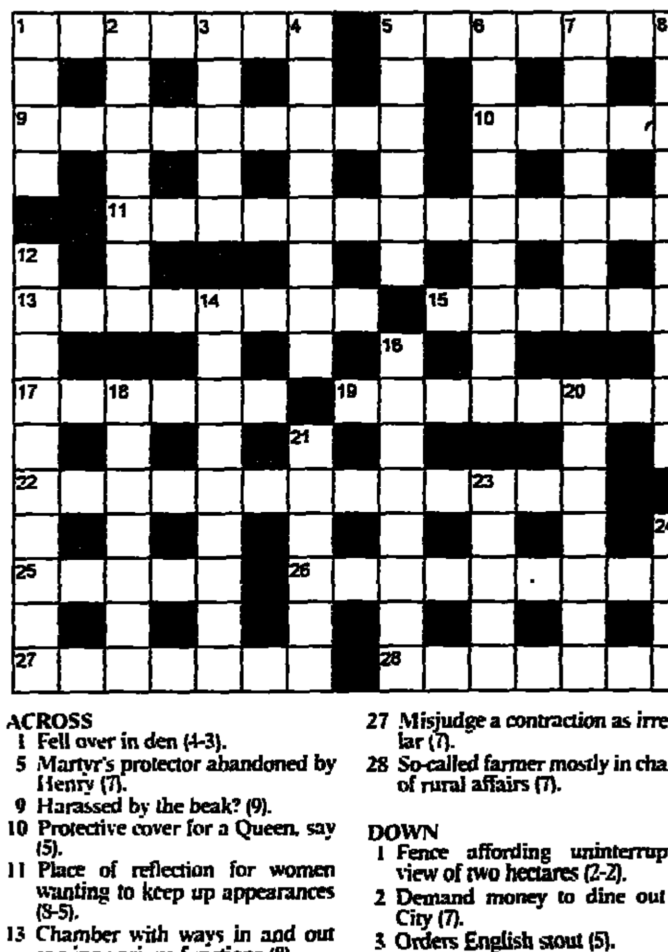
PETER RIDDELL
If the Tories are to look credible, they have to sound convincing on policy. They do not remotely do so yet..............................Page 11

Major-General John Irvine, doctor; **Nina Coltart**, psychoanalyst; **Ron Berry**, Welsh author .... Page 23

Call for reform of abortion laws; defence of Radio 3; choice of Mayor of London; Korea famine; Fat cat lawyers; bans on mobile phones ....Page 21

4, 11, 21, 27, 28, 34. Bonus: 16
The estimated jackpot is £5 million.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,540



ACROSS
1 Fell over in den (4-3).
5 Martyr's protector abandoned by Henry (7).
9 Harassed by the beak? (9).
10 Protective cover for a Queen, say (5).
11 Place of reflection for women wanting to keep up appearances (8-5).
13 Chamber with ways in and out serving various functions (8).
15 First sign of moisture in piping needed treatment (6).
17 Record crowd producing standstill (5-3).
19 Get out the beads in chapel (8).
22 One adept at picking holes in people? (13).
25 A part that's inaudible on stage (5).
26 Person with family values almost sad going round the island (9).
27 Misjudge a contraction as irregular (7).
28 So-called farmer mostly in charge of rural affairs (7).

DOWN
1 Fence affording uninterrupted view of two hectares (2-2).
2 Demand money to dine out in City (7).
3 Orders English stout (5).
4 Conducts class to gain promotion legally (4,4).
5 Resigning for fixing the draw, it is reported (6).
6 Early drop-outs in young set (4-5).
7 Vile drunk elbowing wife aside (7).
8 Plant grower has room for little ones on island (10).
12 Liberal in a publication, a friend and ally (10).
14 Windy apartment university temporarily provided (9).
16 Inspecting camouflaged sniper with sawn-off gun (8).
18 Most college entertainments appear in the end rather vulgar (7).
20 Clutch of eggs from this sort of duck? (7).
21 Winner with 24, none the less leaving a sour taste in the mouth (6).
23 Imagines this insect and others like it (5).
24 Noticed part of organ near temple (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,539

DONQUIXOTE TUCK
R U T W T A R
OCCASION HAMPER
H C N G O I S
HECKLE OBSOLETE
S R A N
ITCH ALLEGIANCE
R O N R D H
BALUSTRADE UNIT
S C N N
STREAMER AVOWAL
A W E O D U T
ABROAD NAINSOOK
O R O Y N E W
DOCK CUMBERLAND

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Championship Qualifying puzzle appears on page 5

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Thursday July 24, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 308
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	N Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 335	London	416 343
Midlands	416 336	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
East Anglia	416 337		
N. West	416 338		
N East	416 339		
Scotland	416 340		
Metfax Marine inshore leisure forecasts	416 398		

World City Weather The Met. Office
153 destinations world wide
5 day forecast
by Phone dial 0336 411216
by Fax (index page) 0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax
new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399
Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode
Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY
Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5 13 am Sun sets: 9 01 pm
Moon sets: 10 51 am Moon rises: 11 14 pm
Last quarter July 26
London 9 01 pm to 5 14 am
Bristol 9 10 pm to 5 24 am
Edinburgh 9 35 pm to 5 34 am
Manchester 9 18 pm to 5 13 am
Penzance 9 16 pm to 5 41 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 42.8% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

HUMBERSIDE TO PRAGUE* £209 RETURN
BIRMINGHAM TO HAMBURG* £149 RETURN
LONDON† TO GUERNSEY £58 RETURN
Phone Air UK on 0990 074 074 or KLM on 0990 750 900
or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability, airport tax and differing travel periods, restrictions apply. Limited booking period only.
*From London Heathrow. *Via Amsterdam.
AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Wales and western England will have some early rain. Central and eastern England should start dry but patchy rain will spread. Most areas should be drier later. Northern Ireland will start wet. Rain will soon reach southwest Scotland, then spread northeast.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** early sunshine, showers in afternoon. Light S to SW wind. Max 23C (73F).

☐ **Cent S & Cent N England, E & W Midlands, Channel Isles:** early bright spells and showers before more rain. Brisk S to SW wind. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **E & NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** starting bright, then rain. Light S wind. Max 20C (68F)

☐ **SW & NW England, S & N Wales, Lake Dist:** early rain, then sunny spells. Moderate SW wind. Max 21C (70F)

☐ **Isle of Man, N Ireland:** warm sunshine, showers possible later. Moderate S wind, turning W. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** morning sunshine, heavy rain later. Light SE wind, then moderate W. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **S W & N W Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** rain then brighter in south later. Brisk W wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** early rain, staying cloudy. Light SE wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** fine and bright tomorrow but rain in north and west on Saturday. Warm in south.

☐ **Pollen forecast:** low in London, Cent S, SW and NW England, N & S Wales, Northern Ireland, N & S Scotland; moderate elsehere (supplied by Pollen Research Unit).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

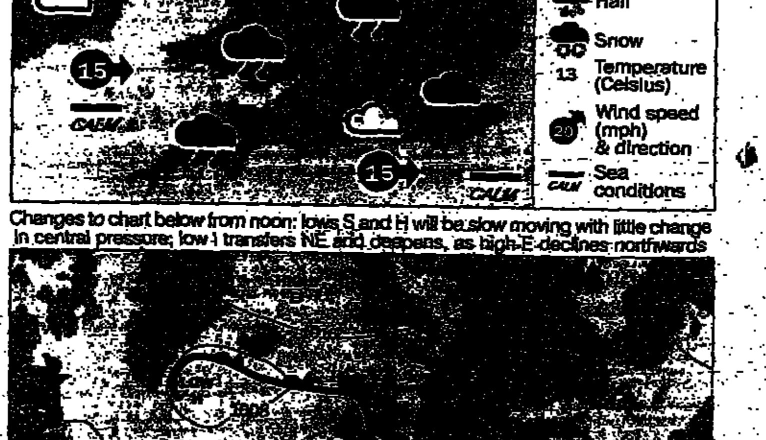
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.8	0.15	20	68	sh	Kinloss	3.4	0.12	17	63	r
Aspatria	7.2	0.01	22	72	f	Leeds	9.0	0.01	26	79	sh
Aviemore	2.2	0.07	19	66	c	Lerwick	8.2	-	17	63	b
Belfast	2.0	0.26	19	66	r	Littlehmptn	12.4	-	23	73	s
Birmingham	10.7	-	27	81	s	London	8.2	-	29	84	s
Bognor R	13.2	-	24	75	s	Lowestoft	10.2	-	22	72	s
Bournem'th	10.2	-	25	77	s	Manchester	10.2	-	25	77	s
Bristol	8.9	-	26	79	s	Margate	11.0	-	26	79	s
Buxton	9.1	-	24	75	s	Minehead	11.6	-	22	72	s
Cardiff	7.8	-	24	75	s	Morecambe	6.2	-	21	70	s
Clacton	14.3	-	20	68	s	Newcastle	3.9	0.09	23	73	b
Cleethorpes	7.7	0.18	25	77	s	Newquay	9.1	-	21	70	s
Cromer	10.1	-	23	73	s	Norwich	12.0	-	27	81	s
Dunbar	0.4	0.29	17	63	r	Oxford	10.9	-	27	81	s
Eastbourne	12.3	-	23	73	s	Penzance	X	-	25	77	s
Edinburgh	5.2	0.06	19	66	b	Poole	10.0	-	28	82	s
Exmouth	7.5	-	23	73	s	Prestatyn	X	-	23	73	b
Falmouth	12.8	-	25	77	s	Ross-o-wye	9.7	-	26	79	s
Fishguard	8.5	-	21	70	b	Salcombe	4.9	-	25	77	s
Folkestone	14.0	-	24	75	s	Scarboro'	4.0	0.10	19	66	b
Glasgow	2.7	0.01	21	70	sh	Shrewsbury	8.4	-	25	77	b
Guernsey	12.4	-	23	73	s	Skegness	11.4	-	26	79	s
Hastings	12.9	-	22	72	s	Southend	9.3	-	25	77	s
Hayling I.	13.4	-	22	72	s	Stornoway	4.2	0.02	18	64	r
Herne Bay	10.3	-	25	77	s	Teignmouth	7.4	-	25	77	s
Hove	11.6	-	22	72	s	Tenby	9.3	-	21	70	s
Hunstanton	12.5	-	26	79	s	Tiree	6.3	0.83	17	63	b
Isle-of-man	4.4	0.01	19	66	c	Torquay	8.2	-	26	79	s
Isle-of-wight	12.4	-	24	75	s	Tynemouth	X	0.03	16	61	c
Jersey	14.3	-	25	77	s	Weymouth	7.9	-	23	73	s

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	26	79	s	Corfu	29	84	s	Madrid	26	79	f	Riyadh	43	109	s
Akrotiri	32	90	s	C'phagn	27	81	s	Majorca	30	88	s	Rome	28	82	s
Alex'dria	31	88	s	Dublin	22	72	s	Malaga	25	77	s	S Paulo	30	68	f
Algiers	28	82	c	Dubrovnik	26	73	s	Malta	35	95	s	Salzburg	22	72	f
Amst'dm	21	70	c	Faro	24	75	s	Melb'rne	12	54	f	Santiago	16	61	s
Athens	33	91	s	Florence	29	84	s	Mexico C	22	72	s	Seoul	33	91	s
B Aires	16	61	c	Frankfurt	22	72	c	Miami	30	86	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	36	97	s	Funchal	25	77	f	Milan	29	84	s	St'kholm	29	84	s
Bangkok	29	84	f	Geneva	23	73	s	Montreal	23	73	s	Strasb'rg	24	75	f
Barbados	30	86	c	Gibraltar	23	73	c	Moscow	26	79	f	Sydney	16	61	s
Barcelona	26	79	s	Helsinki	28	82	f	Munich	21	70	f	Tangier	25	77	f
Beirut	30	86	s	Hong K	31	88	s	N Delhi	32	90	f	Tel Aviv	31	88	s
Belgrade	23	73	c	Innsbrck	24	75	s	N York	24	75	s	Tenerife	26	79	f
Berlin	25	77	f	Istanbul	27	81	s	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tokyo	31	88	s
Bermuda	31	88	s	Jeddah	37	99	s	Naples	29	84	s	Toronto	25	77	s
Biarritz	24	75	f	Jo'burg	19	66	s	Nice	25	77	s	Tunis	31	88	s
Bordo'x	29	84	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	28	82	f	Valencia	28	82	s
Brussels	30	88	c	L Angels	21	70	f	Paris	24	75	s	Vanc'ver	19	66	s
Budapst	22	72	f	L Palmas	25	77	s	Peking	35	95	f	Venice	25	77	f
Cairo	35	95	s	Le Touqet	20	68	f	Perth	18	64	s	Vienna	22	72	f
Cape Tn	14	57	c	Lisbon	21	70	c	Prague	23	73	s	Warsaw	21	70	f
Ch'church	X			Locarno	25	77	s	Reykjavik	14	57	c	Wash'ton	29	84	s
Chicago	21	70	f	Luxembg	22	72	f	Rhodes	29	84	s	Wel'ngton	X		
Cologne	21	70	c	Luxor	43	109	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Zurich	23	73	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available

Changes to chart below from noon: lows S and H will be slow moving with little change in central pressure; low I transfers NE and deepens, as high E declines northwards



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05.36	7.6	17.51	7.3
Aberdeen	04.54	4.5	17.36	4.2
Avonmouth	11.07	13.4	23.30	13.4
Belfast	02.53	3.7	15.09	3.3
Cardiff	10.58	12.4	23.16	12.4
Devonport	09.39	5.4	21.57	5.6
Dover	02.42	6.7	15.04	6.8
Dublin (N Wall)	03.03	4.4	15.44	4.0
Falmouth	09.10	5.2	21.28	5.4
Greenock	04.12	3.8	16.43	3.5
Harwich	03.32	4.3	15.46	4.2
Holyhead	01.50	5.9	14.21	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	09.55	9.1	22.31	8.6
Ilfracombe	09.52	9.2	22.15	9.3
King's Lynn	10.05	7.2	22.49	6.5

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	05.17	5.8	18.49	5.6
Liverpool	02.48	9.9	15.14	9.3
Lowestoft	04.08	2.4	13.06	2.7
Margate	03.50	4.8	15.58	4.8
Milford Haven	10.05	6.9	22.30	7.1
Newquay	09.08	6.9	21.25	7.1
Oban	09.25	3.8	21.58	3.9
Penzance	08.30	5.4	20.58	5.6
Portland	11.53	1.9	23.09	2.0
Portsmouth	02.48	4.7	15.29	4.8
Shoreham	02.52	6.4	15.25	6.4
Southampton	02.18	4.7	14.48	4.7
Swansea	10.10	9.8	22.33	9.7
Tees	07.29	5.8	20.03	5.3
Walton-on-Naze	03.28	4.4	15.39	4.4

All times BST. Heights in metres

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre, 29C (84F); lowest day max: Loch Fea, Co Tyrone, 15C (59F); highest rainfall: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 0.83in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex and Jersey, 14.3hr.

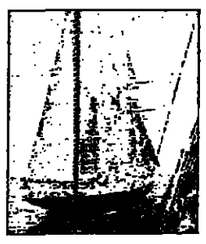
Travel as many times as you like from £59.95 a year.
With annual travel insurance arranged by American Express you can take an unlimited number of trips and save yourself a great deal. To enrol call, quoting reference TWS15.
Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Ltd is an independent intermediary governed by the ABI code of conduct. American Express Services Europe Limited. Registered Office: Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ. Registered Number: 1833139.
0800 700 737
Insurance Services

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BUSINESS
Bronwen Maddox looks at America's tobacco settlement
PAGE 29

ARTS
Helena Bonham Carter goes French in her new movie
PAGES 33-35



TRAVEL NEWS
Seafaring events make waves for British tourism
PAGES 40, 41

ENGLAND PRIMED FOR VICTORY
SPORT 42-48

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JULY 24 1997

'Black hole' inquiry rejected by SFO

By Jon Ashworth

THE Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has decided not to investigate the events at NatWest Markets that gave rise to a £90 million "black hole" linked to derivatives mispricing.

The SFO said that the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which regulates City firms and individuals, was better placed to examine the wider implications of the case. An investigation with a view to a criminal prosecution was not justified. The public interest would be "more appropriately satisfied" if the matter were dealt with through regulation.

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, concluded an independent report last month, pinning the blame for most of the losses on Kyriacos Papouis, a former NatWest interest rate options trader.

Mr Papouis incurred trading losses on mark and sterling options, then hid them by creating false profits. The losses and mispricing went undetected for two years, prompting questions about NatWest's operations and internal controls.

Martin Owen resigned as chief executive of NatWest Markets after the report's publication. The SFO said any inquiry would be restricted to a narrow area. By contrast, City regulators had the power to deal with all the individuals concerned and assess wider questions of controls and supervision.

It was felt that the particular complexities usually associated with an SFO case were absent. In addition, there were no difficult areas of law to be considered and no requirement for highly involved investigatory accounting work.

NatWest welcomed the SFO's decision, saying it would end unhelpful speculation. It had co-operated fully with the preliminary SFO inquiry. The SFA is understood to be looking at the case, although there has been no announcement of a formal inquiry.

Six managers quit NatWest last month. NatWest has taken steps to improve controls and pledged to continue to upgrade systems and control infrastructure on the investment banking side.

Trouble had been brewing at NatWest since December 1996, when Mr Papouis left after four years as an interest rate options trader. In March, NatWest announced that a £77 million "black hole" had been uncovered; the figure subsequently rising to £90 million.

Mr Papouis has declined to comment on allegations that he covered up losses and created false profits over a two-year period.

Commentary, page 27

Sterling at eight-year high as windfall cash reaches the high street

Shopping boom threat set to put rates at 7%

By Alasdair Murray and Philip Bassett

THE City is braced for another interest rate rise after retail sales data pointed to a 1980s-style high steet spending boom.

High street sales increased by an annual rate of 5.4 per cent in June as windfall related spending boosted sales of big ticket items.

Market speculation that rates will rise to 7 per cent next month sent the pound soaring on foreign exchanges. The pound climbed to DM3.0878 — its highest level since September 1989 — before slipping in late trade to close up three pfennigs on the day at DM3.0712. Sterling's trade weighted index also touched an eight-year high of 106.7, before falling slightly to close up 0.9 on the day at 106.6.

The stock market continued its rebound as Wall Street climbed higher following Alan Greenspan's positive comments on Tuesday. The FTSE 100 jumped 85 points in early trading but finished just 27.8 higher at 4,824.5

New evidence that the high level of the pound is beginning to seriously hurt exporters emerged in the latest British Chambers of Commerce quarterly survey that showed export orders slumping to a five-year low.

Economists said the new data coupled with the latest rise in the pound would heighten the "policy dilemma" faced by the Bank of England over further interest rate rises.

But Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday told the Treasury Select Committee that he viewed some of the rise in the pound as "irrational and erratic". Mr George insisted that the pound's current strength is as much connected to political developments surrounding EMU as with the expectation of further interest rate rises.

Mr George said: "The economic cycle explains part of the reason for the strength but it is mostly associated with developements in Europe."

The Governor also admitted that the Bank is uncertain as to the likely impact of windfall payments. But Mr George rejected the charge of Quentin Davies, Tory MP for Grantham and Stamford, that the Government should have taken account of the payouts by raising taxation, insisting the Budget had gone "a long way in the right direction".

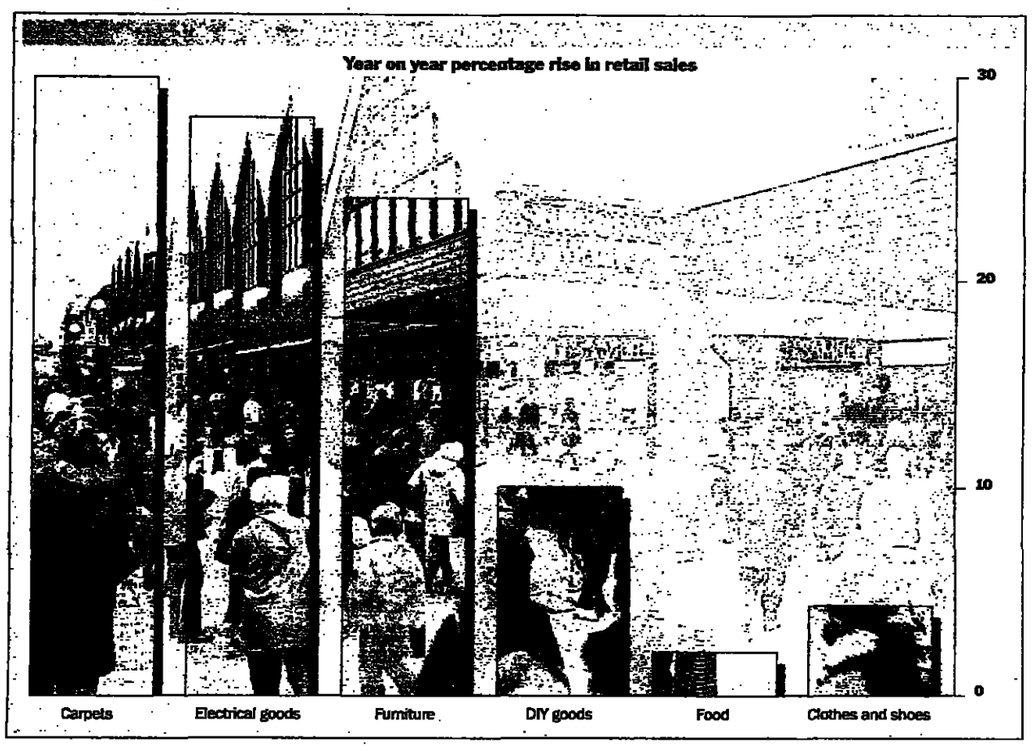
Economists said that with the quarterly average growth in high street sales now showing an annual rate of 5.3 per cent — the highest figure since December 1988 — there is a danger that sales growth could accelerate further.

Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, gave warning that there is much more to come in terms of windfall spending and sales growth is also strong in other sectors such as clothing and footwear.

Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS, said: "With sterling's strength doing much to dampen both domestic cost pressures and export demand, further increases in base rates are not warranted and would risk a hard landing for the economy next year."

The separate British Chambers of Commerce study of more than 9,000 companies showed export prospects dropping rapidly, with a net balance of 10 per cent of manufacturers reporting that their forward orders for exports over the next three months are falling — the lowest figure since 1992. But manufacturers' domestic sales and orders are broadly stable.

Commentary, page 27
Graham Searjeant, page 29



Record month for home goods

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

HOUSEHOLD goods retailers enjoyed a record month in June as consumers rushed to spend building society windfall payouts.

Official data pointed to an extra £150 million of expenditure in the sector last month, almost certainly due to windfall-related spending on large purchase items.

Overall sales of household goods increased 7.5 per cent from May and were 21 per cent up on last June — the largest rise since January 1988.

The biggest winners were carpet retailers, with sales up 30 per cent from last June, electrical goods, up 28 per cent, and furniture, up 24 per cent. DIY sales also increased 10 per cent on last year.

Total high street sales rose 0.6 per cent from May, while the quarterly rate of increase jumped to 5.3 per cent — the highest figure since December 1988.

But the windfall-related spending, which added an estimated 1 percentage point to the index, masked a poor performance in other sectors of the high street, as the wet June weather took its toll.

Food sales fell 1.6 per cent from May, while sales in the non-specialised stores and non-store retailing and repair categories also declined. Sales of clothing and footwear fared slightly better, increasing 1.5 per cent from May, taking the annual rate to 4.4 per cent.

Economists said that high street spending could be even stronger this month as the improved weather should allow food sales to rebound, while there is likely to be more windfall-related spending.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4874.5	(+27.8)
Yield	3.4%	
FTSE All share	2282.67	(+11.76)
Nikkei	20130.51	(-26.51)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8098.34	(+36.69)*
S&P Composite	939.10	(+5.12)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 7/16%*	(5 7/16%)
Long Bond	102 20/32*	(102 21/32)
Yield	6.41%*	(6.41%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 31/32%	(6 31/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	115 9/16	(114 15/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6773*	(1.6803)
London:		
$	1.6812	(1.6767)
DM	3.0720	(3.0394)
FFr	10.3590	(10.2420)
SFr	2.4989	(2.4820)
Yen	194.82	(193.85)
£ Index	106.6	(105.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8240*	(1.8235)
FFr	6.1480*	(6.1225)
SFr	1.4835*	(1.4830)
Yen	115.71*	(114.98)
$ Index	104.5	(104.0)

Tokyo close Yen 115.48

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Oct)	$18.45	($18.30)

GOLD

London close	$324.45	($328.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Take off

Europe has decided not to block the merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas after winning substantial concessions from the American aerospace companies. Page 26

Disappointment

Reuters Holdings, the information group, disappointed the market with a 3 per cent fall in profits and a share buyback that returns less than a fifth of the group's cash mountain. Page 27, Tempus 28

Northern Rock float costs hit £9m

By Caroline Merrell

NORTHERN ROCK incurred costs of £9 million as it prepared to convert from building society to bank and float on the stock market later this year.

Despite the Nationwide's determination to retain its status as a mutual, Northern Rock is convinced it will prosper as a bank when it obtains a listing in October.

David Baker, executive director, said he hoped the building society would retain its independence after conversion. "We hope that our performance for shareholders will ensure our continued independence," he said. Members will receive an average windfall of £1,400.

Yesterday Northern Rock reported a 27 per cent decline in half-year pre-tax profits to £62.6 million.

The society said it was trying to get its balance sheet in order before flotation.

Mr Baker blamed the closure of its financial services division on the high costs of compliance. Staff from the division will be redeployed elsewhere in the society.

Pre-tax profits, excluding conversion costs and write-down of property, rose 10.2 per cent to £97 million, helped by reduced costs. Net lending fell during the six months to £794 million, from £1.1 billion for the first half of 1996. Retail receipts rose to £531 million, from £302 million for the same period last year. The society said much of the new money came from the recently floated Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich.

Nationwide vote, page 1

PETER TRIEVNOR

Adam Applegarth, executive director, Bob Bennett, group finance director, Leo Finn, chief executive, and David Baker

Analysts shocked at low price for exploration company

Ramco Energy takes over JKX for £54m

By Carl Mortished

JKX Oil & Gas, the exploration company chaired by Sir Robert Horton, is to be taken over by Ramco Energy, an AIM-listed rival, for £54 million, a fraction at which JKX shares were sold to the public two years ago.

Ramco Energy is making a paper offer worth 46p per share for JKX. Sir Robert, a former chairman of BP and currently chairman of Railtrack, brought the exploration group to the market in July 1995 at 190p per share. However, despite owning a stake in big oil and gasfields in Ukraine, JKX never made much money in the former Soviet republic because local customers failed to pay for the gas it produced.

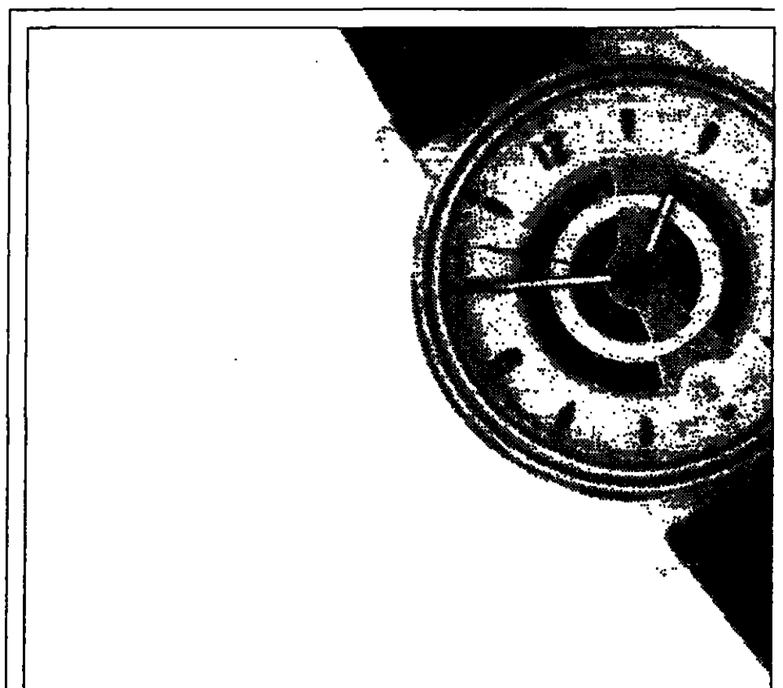
Oil analysts were shocked at the price at which JKX had agreed to sell. NatWest Securities estimates JKX is worth £1 per share. Iain Reid, NatWest analyst, said: "The management appear to have thrown in the towel, recommending such a low price."

Ramco said it had secured the backing of institutions accounting for 26 per cent of JKX shares.

These are likely to include Morgan Grenfell which, prior to a rights issue in February, owned 17 per cent of the company. Peter Young, the controversial Morgan Grenfell fund manager who left after the discovery of irregular dealings, is thought to have been a supporter of JKX. Capital Group, the US fund manager, held 12 per cent last year, while recent investors include PDFM, which acquired 10 per cent in April, and Mercury Asset Management, 5 per cent.

Ramco, whose shares have soared on the back of its interest in the huge oilfields in the Caspian Sea, is thought to be looking for a partner to reduce the risk of operating in the political turmoil of Ukraine. Bob McCrack, a new managing director, was brought in this year to cut costs at JKX.

Tempus, page 28



"a smooth running investment process demands precision"

Behind Threadneedle's investment process lies a commitment to precise measurement of risk and return. This process is implemented by some of the most respected investment managers in the City. Their goal is consistently superior performance. Another reason why you should keep your eye on us in the coming months.

Threadneedle investments

Issued by Threadneedle Investment Managers Limited, 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8JQ. Regulated by IMRO.

T/0028

Rival lottery promises to make your day

By Jon Ashworth

A NEW lottery game with a jackpot of £100,000 is to go on sale in pubs, clubs, and airport lounges in November, creating the most serious challenge yet to the National Lottery.

Pronto!, a rapid-draw lottery modelled on the American-style game Keno, will be backed with a £10 million national advertising campaign by the team, now at M&C Saatchi, that handled the original National Lottery launch.

Tickets will cost £1, and 20p of each ticket will go to a range of charities, including Mencap, The Samaritans, and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

The venture has been pioneered by Lord Mancroft, the Conservative peer, whose charity scratchcards, including Poppy Day cards for the Royal British Legion, raised more than £5 million for charity. With scratchcards in decline, Lord Mancroft has turned his attention to online games, using a Camelot-style system linked to a mainframe computer.

Pronto! will be launched in more than 2,000 outlets nationwide, including pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, airport lounges, service stations and shopping malls. The network is expected to peak at 10,000 outlets in early 1999. Punters will pick up to ten numbers from a field of 80. Draws will take place every five to 15 minutes throughout the day.

The venture will be welcomed by charities, which have lost heavily to the National Lottery. Lord Mancroft said: "The charities that are going to benefit from Pronto! will be people charities: those concerned with children, the sick, the disabled, and the old. Medical research charities will also benefit." Unclaimed prizes and interest will be passed to the charities concerned.

Lord Mancroft is chairman of Inter Lotto (UK), which will receive a management fee for its services. Former executives of the Massachusetts State Lottery have been recruited to run the venture. Crown Leisure, the slot machine company with a 50 per cent stake in Inter Lotto, will service and install lottery terminals and advise on distribution and much of the funding will be provided by MMK, a lottery supplier. Players will typically pick three, four or five numbers, potentially winning them £50, £120 or £300. Ten correct numbers win £100,000. Roy Fisher, managing director of Inter Lotto (UK), said: "It's not going to change your life, but it might make your day."

Camelot is tipped to launch its own Keno-style game, but has yet to win regulatory approval. Lord Mancroft said: "We are not a tinpot operation and are fully capitalised. We have the best lottery team in the world and in Crown Leisure have one of the leaders of the leisure industry." Pronto! retailers will receive commission of about 10 per cent on ticket sales, double the amount paid by Camelot.

EU decides not to block Boeing merger

By Charles Bremner and Tom Rhodes

THE European Commission has decided not to block the $15 billion (£8.4 billion) merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas after winning substantial concessions from the American aerospace companies.

Boeing agreed to drop its controversial exclusive supplier contracts with three US airlines.

Brussels quickly claimed victory after a transatlantic trade war was averted at the last minute. The Commission had for weeks been expected to ban the merger at its scheduled meeting yesterday. The official go-ahead will be given next week.

Commission officials could barely disguise their delight after what they saw as flinching by Boeing under the threat of the imposition of heavy EU fines.

Boeing's eleventh-hour concessions were hailed as vindication of the Commission's insistence that it has authority to police the terms of an all-American business deal with global implications.

Karel Van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner who led the negotiations, said: "This was a vital battle in terms of competition policy. There was broad agreement in the Commission. The remedies the Commission was striving for have largely been supplied."

Mr Van Miert's aggressive handling of the politically delicate affair was a gamble that seems to have paid off, reinforcing the EU's regulatory muscle on the world stage.

The outcome was a "victory for determination", Mr Van Miert said. "No state alone could have achieved a result like this."

A White House statement professed satisfaction at the outcome. President Clinton helped to broker the deal in telephone calls to European leaders.

Jack Metcalf, a Congressman with a big Boeing plant in his district in Washington State, said Boeing's concessions were merely face-saving for Europe. He said: "Giving up the exclusive contracts in name only is more face saving for Europe than any great concession."

Boeing agreed not to conclude any new exclusive aircraft supply contracts with airlines before August 1, 2007. It also agreed not to enforce the exclusivity provisions in its existing contracts with Continental, Delta and American Airlines.

The company had conceded in earlier negotiations to license any know-how obtained under military contracts if used in Boeing's commercial aviation business. Mr Van Miert said the Commission had also received a commitment that Boeing would not use its position *vis-à-vis* current McDonnell airline customers as leverage to obtain an advantage in sales of new aircraft.

DES JENSON

Peter Morgan, left, and David Hood, chief executive, said deals among TV players had held back the service

Eureko to bid for Gan

By Paul Durman

EUREKO, the European insurance alliance that includes the UK's Friends Provident, is preparing a bid for Gan, the state-owned French insurer, as a first step towards a stock market listing.

Eureko claims to be Europe's seventh largest insurance group but it does not own its six partner companies, which run their domestic businesses separately. The umbrella company at the centre of the alliance principally handles the partners' international business.

Jeff Medlock, Eureko's chief executive, suggested Eureko is worth up to £750 million. The addition of Gan would create a substantial business capable of flotation.

However, Topdanmark, Eureko's Danish partner, is not willing to support a bid for GAN, because it is "concerned about its shareholders".

Gan has lost billions of francs over the past three years, mainly because of provisions against bad debts of its CIC banking arm. Gan's privatisation has been delayed by the French election, but is expected to go ahead by the end of the year. The business could fetch up to 20 billion francs (£1.9 billion).

Electricity market opens up to competition next year

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

MORE than two million households will be able to buy their electricity from competing suppliers by next July, under plans laid out yesterday by the industry regulator.

Homes in areas currently served by Seeboard, Eastern and Yorkshire Electricity will be the first to benefit from the competitive market starting next April. These companies will be the first to lose their local monopolies.

The introduction of competition in the supply of electricity has been beset by arguments between the regulator and existing suppliers. As only Eastern, Seeboard and Yorkshire will be ready for business on day one only about 700,000 customers will be able to buy competitively, with the remaining 1.3 million coming in as their regional company gets its technology running. Competition is being phased in by postcode in three stages.

Towns and cities included in the first phase are: Bolton, Bury, Horwich, Ramsbottom, Chester, Buckley, Connah's Quay, Holywell, Mold, Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Herne Bay, Isle of Thanet, Margate, Durham, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Houghton-le-Spring, Hull, Beverley, Hessle, Hedon, Hornsea, Inverness, Elgin, Isle of Skye, Dingwall, Ullapool, Motherwell, Airdrie, Coatbridge, Lanark, Nottingham, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Fakenham, Wymondham, Swansea, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southhampton, Lymington, Eastleigh, Romsey, Winchester, Torquay, Ashburton, Brixham, Dartmouth, Salcombe, Teignmouth, Walsall, Cannock, Lichfield, Rugeley.

Tesco squares up to banks

By Nathan Yates

Banks in stores by autumn

TESCO, the supermarket group, yesterday launched a new personal finance service in partnership with Royal Bank of Scotland.

Tesco Personal Finance will provide banking, loans, insurance, investment vehicles, pensions and mortgages by July next year in an aggressive drive to target high street bank and building society customers.

Shoppers will see banks in Tesco branches by the autumn, some of which may be open 24 hours a day. There will also be round-the-clock phone banking services. The first products — a Tesco Visa credit card, a remodelled Clubcard, and Tesco travel insurance — will be introduced on Monday.

Derek Sachs, chief executive of Tesco Personal Finance, said: "We aim to offer products that will suit people's lifestyles. They will be convenient, jargon-free and value for money." About 1,000 jobs will be created.

Sainsbury Bank, a phone and cashpoint facility run in conjunction with Bank of Scotland, has taken more than £550 million in deposits since its launch in February.

Pace hit by third warning

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES of Pace Micro Technology fell to a low yesterday as the set-top decoder producer gave warning that the slow emergence of the digital television market had cast uncertainty over its prospects for the first half.

Returning flat pre-tax profits of £18.4 million (£18.2 million) for the year to May 31, the company, whose chairman is Peter Morgan, said mergers and takeovers among the leading European television players had slowed the emergence of digital service.

The warning, its third in six months, caused the shares to drop 15 per cent to a low of 53½p — against its flotation price of 172p last summer. Earnings fell to 5.7p a share (6.1p). Pace, which was founded by David Hood, is paying a final dividend of 1.8p, making a total 2.7p.

Sales of analogue decoders dropped from £53 million to £32 million in the second half. However, the sales from digital services advanced only 7.7 per cent to £80 million.

Analysts said consumers are putting off buying a new analogue TV in the expectation that digital television will soon be available.

Although Panmure Gordon, the company's broker, forecast profits of £20 million for 1998, other analysts left the profits range open between £1 million and £15 million.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

The future is Orange 'for 1m customers'

ORANGE, the mobile telephone network, yesterday claimed a million customers on its books, giving the company a 13.5 per cent market share. Orange, ranked third behind Vodafone and Cellnet, has been steadily lifting its market share since last year's flotation. At its last results, published in March, the company said it had raised its stake to 11.5 per cent from 7 per cent the previous year. The company still has substantial ground to make up on the two leaders, which both have more than 2½ million customers each.

Orange plans to lift its coverage to 96 per cent of the population from 92 per cent currently. Heavy investment pushed Orange deeper into loss last year, when it went £229 million into the red. Orange claims the turnover of customers within a year is the lowest in the market at 18.6 per cent, against an industry average of 28 per cent.

Business superstore

PLANS to create a "business superstore" of information to help companies to cope with regulations from central and local government are being drawn up by ministers. A Whitehall committee, chaired by Peter Kilfoyle, junior Public Service Minister, met for the first time yesterday to identify new ways to cut red tape and make life simpler for business people, particularly those with small and medium-sized companies. Among ideas being considered are making official forms available on the Internet.

Shake-up lifts Bullough

BULLOUGH, the industrial engineering group that has been restructured, reported a rise in profits to £8.4 million from £3.1 million before tax and exceptional items in the half year to April 30. Adjusted earnings rose to 4.77p (1.12p) a share, while the interim dividend rose to 1.29p (1.17p). Profits from continuing operations increased to £8.8 million (£5.45 million) and disposals resulted in a £17.5 million fall in net borrowings. Sir Michael Pickard, chairman, said Bullough was now "a balanced and focused group". The shares rose 2½p to 95p.

Sales boost for NU

SHARES in Norwich Union rose on new business figures released yesterday. Total UK life and pension business rose £561 million in the first six months of the year, compared with £471 million. However, new business in Australia and other non-European Union territories was down from £150 million to £120 million. Total sales of consolidated life insurance, personal equity plans and unit trusts rose £929 million (£800 million). The bulk of the UK life sales increase came from independent financial advisers. The shares rose 7½p to 322p.

News Corp Fox victory

TIME WARNER Inc and The News Corporation have reached an agreement that would allow the latter's Fox News to be aired on the New York city cable system, over which Time Warner has a virtual stranglehold. The deal represents a victory for News Corp, parent company of *The Times*. It ends a nine-month dispute that kept Fox off the air in America's largest city. Time Warner's cable system will no longer block the 24-hour news channel, seen as a rival to CNN. News Corp will also gain access to 65 per cent of the Time Warner systems across the US.

Euro Disney revenue up

EURO DISNEY, operator of the Disneyland Paris theme park, lifted third-quarter operating revenues 8 per cent to Fr1.5 billion (£143 million). The increase was driven principally by growth in park attendance and hotel occupancy, combined with a small increase in average guest spending throughout the resort. Since the start of fiscal 1997, operating revenues have grown 10.6 per cent to Fr3.7 billion, against the same period last year. Paribas, the broker, issued a "sell" note yesterday, saying interest and other costs will hold back net income.

Brewin Dolphin ahead

PRE-TAX profits at Brewin Dolphin, the private client stockbroker, rose 48 per cent to £4.1 million in the first half of 1997, despite ongoing costs relating to the introduction of Crest, the City's electronic share settlement system. Profits included a £196,000 one-off gain from the sale of a stake in an associated company. Operating costs increased by nearly £2 million to £20.1 million, fuelled by Crest investment. Earnings were 10.8p a share (7.8p). The interim dividend of 3p (2.5p) will be paid on October 1.

Shield-Abbott deal

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the Dundee firm best known for its potential heart disease test, has agreed a five-year deal with Abbott Laboratories, the large US healthcare group, that will enable it to use Abbott's instruments. The first product will be a test for Lyme disease, which is contracted in forested areas and which can cause skin rash and rheumatic pain. It is thought Shield is talking to Abbott about using its instruments for the more important AFT heart disease, which is regarded as a potential replacement for cholesterol testing.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.39	2.21
Austria Sch	22.82	20.98
Belgium Fr	68.59	61.29
Canada $	2.444	2.259
Cyprus Cyp£	0.941	0.869
Denmark Kr	12.29	11.40
Finland Mkk	9.60	8.86
France Fr	10.82	10.04
Germany Dm	3.24	3.06
Greece Dr	505	467
Hong Kong $	13.82	12.82
Iceland	127	117
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.11
Israel Shk	6.21	5.85
Italy Lira	3163	2926
Japan Yen	209.83	192.30

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Malta	0.898	0.839
Netherlands Gld	3.649	3.354
New Zealand $	2.75	2.51
Norway Kr	13.22	12.28
Portugal Esc	322.69	300.30
S Africa Rd	8.39	7.44
Spain Pta	270.29	251.50
Sweden Kr	13.99	12.89
Switzerland Fr	2.65	2.44
Turkey Lira	274911	255033
USA $	1.768	1.645

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Competitiveness panel formed

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government yesterday appointed prominent figures from industry and trade unions to a new body that will advise ministers on improving the competitiveness of UK companies.

The body includes Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC. Other members include Sir Terence Conran, a prominent Labour supporter, Ian Gibson, the Nissan chief executive, and John Edmonds, leader of the GMB union.

Tesco, Glaxo Wellcome, BP, Guinness and British Aerospace are represented on the 19-strong body, which includes a number of heads of smaller businesses.

Ministers denied the move was a return of tripartite industry/union bodies such as the former National Economic Development Council, but the establishment of the advisory group on competitiveness is the first time since NEDC that business and the unions have helped to form government policy on industry.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said she wanted the Government's commitment to partnership to be "more than warm words", and the advisory group was the first step in making that ambition a reality.

Announcing the formation of the new body at her first Competitiveness UK summit, Mrs Beckett said the Government's aim was to find a "third way" between centralised control and leaving everything to the free market, which would give "clearly identified and agreed roles and responsibility" to the Government and to business.

As well as announcing a £30 million programme to help scientific investment, Mrs Beckett said she was considering setting up a unit to identify and understand industries and markets of the future.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Administration Order
In the matter of Dawney, Day Securities Limited
and in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Registered number: 2672130
Nature of Business: Financial Trade classification: 38
Administration Order made: 18 July 1997
PW Wallace and R Hale
Joint Administrators (office holder nos 6281 and 10133)

No 3440 OF 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF SPEYWOOD GROUP LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented on 8th July 1997 to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named company from £46,623,203 to £54,116,052
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 13th August 1997.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 22nd day of July 1997
Herbert Smith
Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2HS
Ref: 322/C402
Solicitors for the above named Company

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
DMI plc
Registered number: 1745110
Trading name(s):
Nature of business: Buying, packing & selling of meats
Trade classification: 04
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 11 July 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): National Westminster Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers: Roger Marsh & Ian Schneider
Office Holder No.s: 5925 & 1144
Address for both: 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN

HARNISCHFEGER (U.K.) LIMITED
the ("Company")
(Company Number: 2484112)
Pursuant to section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 the Company hereby gives notice that:
by written resolution of the Company's shareholders passed on 18 July 1997, the Company approved a payment out of capital pursuant to section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 for the purpose of acquiring 7 of its own ordinary shares of £1 each and the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £7,520,254; the statutory declarations of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at Seaman Works, Seaman Way, Ince, Wigan WN1 3DD;
any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 18 July 1997 apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Peter Walker, Director

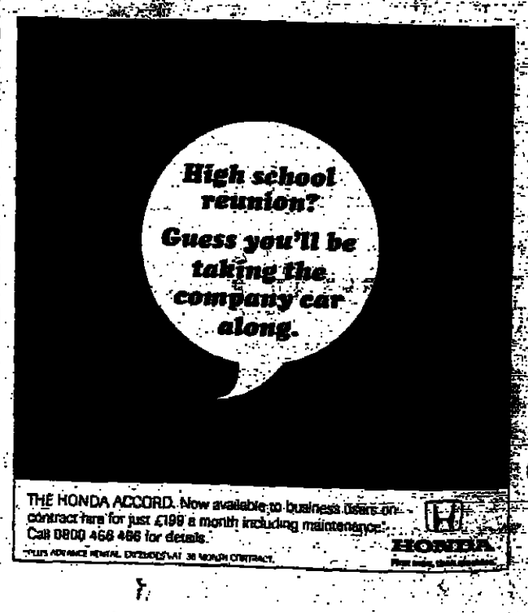
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND IN THE MATTER OF KIRBY PET SUPPLIES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at BDO Stoy Hayward, 12 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, Suffolk on the 1 August 1997 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99-101 of the said Act. On the two business days preceding the day of meeting a list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge, at BDO Stoy Hayward, 12 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AT
18 July 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
JCV Brown, Secretary
Authenticated by David J Dawson, Chartered Accountant

No. 02839 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF STONEPLANE UK LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREY GIVEN that the Order of the High COurt of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 9th July 1997 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £30,001,000 to £1,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 17th July 1997.
Dated this 23rd day of July 1997
Hickman de Raya
21 Southampton Row
London, WC1B 5HS
Solicitors for the Company

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROOM nee MURPHY, MAUREEN CECILIA BROOM otherwise MARY BROOM nee MURPHY WIDOW late of Sidcup, Kent died there on 16 May 1997 (Estate about £150,000)
CARTLIDGE, RAYMOND CARTLIDGE late of Stoke-on-Trent died there on 11 April 1995 (Estate about £43,000)
COLOMBO, MARY COLOMBO otherwise VIOLET COLOMBO SPINSTER late of Deptford, London SE8 died there on 21 August 1996 (Estate about £14,000)
DAVIS nee VARNEY, ELSIE DAVIS nee VARNEY WIDOW late of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died there on 29 July 1997 (Estate about £5,000)
HOWARD, BEATRICE JOAN HOWARD SPINSTER late of Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan died there on 21 December 1996 (Estate about £86,000)
HUNT, BERTL ELIZABETH D'ARCY HUNT SPINSTER late of Gloucester died there on 29 April 1997 (Estate about £95,000)
KENNEDY, LAWRENCE KENNEDY late of Camden, London NW3 died there on 18 August 1996 (Estate about £7,000)
PHILLIPS nee GROSVENOR, BERTHA PHILLIPS otherwise BETTY PHILLIPS otherwise GROSVENOR WIDOW late of Guisborough, Cleveland died there on or about 25 January 1997 (Estate about £250,000)
PUDLO otherwise PUDLOW nee RUSSO, FILOMENA PUDLO otherwise FILOMENA PUDLO otherwise FHLOMENA PUDLOW nee RUSSO WIDOW late of Chiswick, London W4 died there on 19 May 1995 (Estate about £7,000)
THOMPSON, JAMES THOMPSON late of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk died there on 23 November 1995 (Estate about £9,700)
TOOLEY nee POPE, CONSTANCE TOOLEY nee POPE WIDOW late of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk died there on 25 October 1996 (Estate about £7,500)
TRIPP, ALBERT CECIL TRIPP late of Pinner, Middlesex died at Harrow, Middlesex on 31 December 1996 (Estate about £6,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (SV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to verification and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.



Carpetbaggers at bay

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

There are three good reasons for welcoming the defeat of Michael Hardern and his fellow pirates in their attempt to hijack the good ship Nationwide and convert it into a bank, to the enrichment of its three and a half million members. One is economic, one a matter of principle and the third is purely practical.

The last thing the British economy needs is anything up to £7 billion dumped on the high street in time for next summer's sales, with the promise of plenty more to come as the dwindling band of surviving building societies are picked off by marauding bands of carpetbaggers. The retail sales figures make this perfectly clear; the growth is in those consumer items whose prices nearly coincide with the average windfall.

On this analysis, the inevitable rises in interest rates in coming months might not have been enough to choke off this supply of fresh money. They would instead have made life difficult for mortgage-holders who were not recipients of demutualisation largesse, and for manufacturing as the pound headed inexorably for two dollars. And still, as the next batch of building society members received their payoffs, the spending spree would continue.

On a matter of principle, there may be no proof that the continuing existence of building societies modifies the rates charged by the converted and by existing banks. But it would seem foolhardy to allow societies to join the great auk and the dodo while the theory is unproven. In ten years' time we might need them again. Even more foolhardy to have seen mass extinction driven by the worst sort of short-termism, the desire of the greedy for a few bob more.

On a practical note, while the antics of Michael Hardern may have enlivened the campaign, they have given no one who has met him confidence that he was ideal for the board of Nationwide or for any other business. His style of dress, his choice of venues for public appearances, his abrupt changes of opinion, these are between him and his psychiatrist. But his decision to base his campaign on sheer greed — "If you want £1,000, vote for me" — hardly suggests a coherent business plan.

The same may not be true of his four fellow rebels, but the voting figures do not suggest that the opposition to him was personal. He polled a few thousand votes less than they managed, true, but the poll in favour of the incumbents, and for mutual status, was overwhelming, and almost three times higher.

Nationwide is entitled to hope that this puts a lid on the matter. Alas, not so, because anyone is entitled, at this or any other society, to repeat the process. Those who call on legal action to curb carpetbagging simply miss the point. The mutual movement has won this battle by defending its inherent qualities from change. It would be perverse if the victory was followed by fundamental change brought about by Parliament rather than by carpetbagging.

The Bank that needs to say no

As part of the consumer boom currently gripping the country, the Bank of England's monetary policy committee should all might buy themselves a new pair of spectacles each. These glasses will allow the venerable economists and central bankers to view the storming retail sales figures in the same way that they see the storming pound. Either they take both these economic facts of life into the reckoning when deciding whether to put up interest rates, or ignore both.

Eddie George told the Treasury Select Committee yesterday that the 25 per cent rise in sterling in a year was irrational. And because the Bank believes rise is irrational and somehow relates to EMU, it does not see how increasing interest rates will effect it. So it is largely ignoring the pound when deciding on interest rates. Meanwhile the few bits of British industry which still make and export things are having a dreadful time trying to compete at DM3.06 to the pound.

At the same time the Bank is all in a tizzy about consumer spending — believing the economy is in danger of overheating like a badly wired toaster. But if you take a close look at the consumer boom the UK is enjoying is is being driven by building society windfalls. The Bank may say windfalls are the froth and the underlying growth is too strong. But this boom has an air of being short lived.

What are people buying? Carpets, furniture and electrical goods. They are investing in their homes. You only buy new home furnishings every few years (unless you own cats). These sectors suffered during the early 1990s and it looks like many people may be making the expensive household purchases they put off a few years ago becaue they were afraid of losing their jobs. Also this bout of avid consumer spending is quite likely to choke off an element of future expenditure on household products in the next two or three years.

The Nationwide vote indicates the building society conversion boom could be over, and with it this short-term consumer boom. This time next year — without an intervention from the Bank — there is a fair bet that we will be seeing a fall in retail sales. So this apparent boom looks like a temporary blip. Meanwhile the strong pound looks like a real problem. If the Bank wants to ignore something, it should ignore consumer sales, because the pound will rise if interest rates are put up again. And that rise will not be irrational and will not be welcome.

The Wright decision

The new director of the Serious Fraud Office, Rosalind Wright, has quickly learnt the art of the possible. By deciding not to get involved in the investigation of the £77 million options mispricing scandal at NatWest Markets, she has avoided the SFO spending many months, and possibly many millions of pounds, pursuing a case that it would be difficult to bring to court and virtually impossible to explain to a jury.

Indeed if there had been any crime, it would have been in the concealment of the losses, not actualy making the losses in the first place. This would be akin to pursuing a bank robber for speeding in the getaway car. So Mrs Wright, who came from the Securities and Futures Authority, has said it is an SFA matter.

This should please Kyriacos Papouis and co, because going by past performance, the SFA does not consider concealing losses to be that big an issue. Take the case of Bruce Baer, a bond dealer at Banque Paribas. Three years ago he lost £6.25 million in two days, hiding the losses from his bosses. The SFA investigated, fined him £5,000 and said he could retain his SFA registration.

Of course the NatWest Markets case is fundamentally different. It is a lot more money, involves a high street bank and has brought about the resignations of some senior City figures. But if Mr Papouis's lawyers are worth their money, they will be studying the Bruce Baer case very closely indeed.

If not now, when?

WHY DO the "shareholders of Formula One Holdings" (meaning Bernie Ecclestone) feel the need to put out a statement saying Salomon Brothers is their "exclusive financial advisor" advising on "a number of stategic alternatives" with "an initial public offering" the "preferred course of action"? Surely there can never have been any doubt about this. The interesting line is "no decision has even been made with respect to timing."

LVMH tops up GrandMet holdings

Bernard Arnault, the head of LVMH who on Tuesday pushed his stake in Grand Metropolitan past 10 per cent, kept up the pressure against the proposed merger of GrandMet with Guinness yesterday by increasing his holding in GrandMet.

Market sources said M Arnault had continued his tactic of switching out of Guinness and into GrandMet, though the amounts are thought to have been negligible compared with Tuesday's frenetic trading.

It was confirmed yesterday that LVMH reduced its stake in Guinness from 14.2 per cent to 12.46 per cent, while raising its holding in GrandMet from 6.37 per cent to 11.05 per cent.

Volumes in the two companies yesterday were around double normal levels, with Guinness shedding 6½p to 591½p and GrandMet 5p to 617p.

M Arnault, who has resigned as a non-executive director of Guinness, is due in London today to meet analysts and institutions to discuss his proposal that Guinness and GrandMet should merge their drinks arms with LVMH's Moët Hennessy and spin off food and brewing interests.

Further meetings are planned next week, but a spokesman for the Frenchman said they should not be interpreted as an institutional roadshow.

Budget blamed

British Steel yesterday took a further swipe at the Government's economic policies, blaming weak fiscal measures in the Budget for the strength of sterling.

The company, which is accelerating a restructuring programme involving thousands of redundancies because of the impact of the strong pound, urged the Chancellor ahead of the Budget to increase taxation.

At British Steel's annual meeting, Sir Brian Moffat, chairman and chief executive, said: "We support the Government's battle to keep inflation at low levels but believe it is unrealistic to put virtually all the pressure for these actions on interest rates, when governments of other European member states are using fiscal policy rather than interest rates as their response to the threat of inflation."

ICI director

ICI, the chemicals group, has appointed Sir Alex Trotman, the chairman and chief executive of Ford Motor Company, as a non-executive director.

PRAGUE
£169
10 Day Holiday
with B&B Good Hotel
New Millennium Holidays
Brochure: 0121 705 4431

Reuters disappoints City with mere £200m buyback

By Jason Nisse

REUTERS HOLDINGS, the information group, disappointed the market yesterday with a 3 per cent fall in profits and a share buyback that returns less than a fifth of the group's £1 billion plus cash mountain to shareholders.

Reuters shares fell 11p to 598½p as Bob Rowley, finance director, put the blame on the Government. He said that the high pound had hit the currency translation of overseas earnings and that the present tax regime did not encourage large handouts.

The cash issue has been gnawing at Reuters for some time. It had to drop a £613 million handout last year after Kenneth Clarke, the previous Chancellor, changed the tax regime.

Mr Rowley said the tax changes in Gordon Brown's first Budget, which removed dividend tax credit for pension funds, were the "first move to creating a level playing field".

The proposed £200 million buyback would stop the cash pile from growing further this year. But Peter Job, chief executive, said that the group could not go further unless the tax regime changed.

He added: "We're making this as big as we can within the tax capacity we have. The effect of this will be to stop the accumulation of cash in the enterprise but not to come to grips with the excess cash we're holding which we would rather shareholders had."

Although Mr Job would not rule out using the money to buy other information companies, he said: "We don't want to be pushed into lax management through the availability of cash mountains or into inappropriate acquisitions."

The group's pre-tax profits fell to £333 million for the six months to June 30. Reuters blamed the strong pound, saying that in local currency terms profits would have risen 11 per cent.

Earnings fell 3 per cent to 14.2p a share and there is an interim dividend of 3.1p payable on September 8, an increase of 8 per cent.

Reuters said that it was well on the way to quantifying the cost of the millennium problem — where many computers cannot handle the year change from 1999 to 2000. It is currently visiting many of its clients to see whether it will need to make software adjustments and how much this will cost.

Tempus, page 28

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Peter Job, chief executive, said the group could not go further with the buyback unless the tax regime changed

Executive rejig at Burton ahead of demerger

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

THE Burton Group has taken another step down the path to demerger by making a raft of senior appointments at Debenhams and the rump fashion chains business.

Staff were told yesterday that Richard Maney, at present in charge of home shopping, will become executive director in charge of brands and home shopping at the fashion chains business.

This job had been offered to Stuart Rose, a Burton director, but he left when the demerger was announced. Mr Rose is now a contender to fill the vacancy of chief executive at WH Smith.

Keith Cameron, who has had control of logistics, property services and retail design and development, will become executive director of stores, personnel and operations at the fashion chain business.

This side of the business — which will be run by John Hoerner, current group chief executive — includes Dorothy Perkins, Burton Menswear, Principles, Top Shop and Evans and is as yet unnamed.

The company is running a competition to find a name for the new holding company. Both Mr Maney and Mr Cameron will report directly to Mr Hoerner. Debenhams will be run by Terry Green, the current chief executive. Peter Kaursland will be managing director and Matthew Roberts finance director. Martin Clifford-King will be chief financial controller, the company said yesterday.

Nigel Hall, who runs the group information systems at present, has been appointed demerger director. He will leave the group after the process is completed.

The appointments mean that all the executive director roles at the two companies are now filled. One or two non-executives will need to be appointed to complete each board before the demerger.

Burton is planning to sell its group headquarters on Great Castle Street in the West End of London.

The cost of redundancies — the number of which has yet to be determined — as well as the savings expected from the demerger will be known to the company in September, but may not be announced until the demerger prospectus goes to shareholders in mid-December.

'Cleaned-up' Ohmeda could sell for £1bn

By Paul Durman

CITY analysts believe BOC Group's sale of Ohmeda, its healthcare business, could raise close to £1 billion.

Estimates for the value of Ohmeda, whose business is based around anaesthetic gases, range from about £700 million. Although Ohmeda has suffered a sharp fall in profits in recent years after Forane lost its protection against generic competition, some believe bidders may be prepared to pay about two times sales, which were £506 million last year.

One commentator said: "Any buyer will be able to convince themselves that there's some profits growth to come out. It's still making a 16 per cent return on capital."

Danny Rosenkranz, BOC's chief executive, has asked JP Morgan, the investment bank, to find a buyer for Ohmeda despite repeatedly insisting last year that he did not intend to sell the business. Ohmeda has about 4,800 employees in 30 countries.

Mr Rosenkranz said Ohmeda was at a cross-roads, and BOC had to decide "either to invest in it or get out". He added: "It's been cleaned up, the restructuring benefits are coming through. It's a business which could be made into quite a success ... subject to putting serious money into it." BOC's industrial gas businesses soaked up £621 million last year.

Ohmeda's decline in profits, from £99 million in 1992 to £53 million last year, has prompted numerous calls for its sale. However, Mr Rosenkranz said BOC was not simply responding to such pressure: "This is our decision."

He said Forane prices had stabilised after a long decline. BOC recently applied for US regulatory approval for a nitric oxide treatment of respiratory failure, including "blue baby" syndrome. Mr Rosenkranz has said this has the potential to be Ohmeda's most important product since Forane.

Tempus, page 28

Rosenkranz: crossroads

Sunderland scores a £3.1m profit

SUNDERLAND fans suffered the disappointment of relegation to the First Division for next season, but the club's first results since coming to the stock market show it has returned to profit.

The pre-tax figure of £3.1 million for the year to May 31 is slightly ahead of the estimates laid in its float prospectus and is an improvement on the pro forma £2.37 million loss for 1996. The shares closed unchanged at 355p yesterday. They were placed at 585p each in December 1996.

The club is gearing up for the move to a £15 million, 42,000-seat purpose-built stadium at Monkwearmouth next Wednesday, in time for a pre-season friendly against Ajax, after leaving Roker Park.

Adjusted earnings were 57.2p a share, against losses of 19.8p previously. A dividend of 3.2p is to be paid on November 4.

Matthew Clark plays down impact of alcopops

Rosy result with less cider

By Fraser Nelson

MATTHEW CLARK, the drinks company, yesterday sought to shed its image as a victim of alcopops by showing that its Diamond White and Blackthorn ciders generate less than half its overall profits.

The company's shares rose 4p to 246½ as it detailed its profits breakdown for the first time, to prove that it is far less exposed to the shrinking cider market than many analysts feared. Peter Aikens, chief executive, said: "We took this decision because the view of the world is that we are just a cider business. We are a branded drinks business with a strong wholesale arm, which is doing very well."

One analyst said: "We expected cider profits to fall quite sharply, but it appears Matthew Clark is slightly better balanced than we had given it credit for."

Overall pre-tax profits declined 4 per cent to £40.6 million in the year to April 30, after cider sales came in £12 million lower than expected, leaving group sales at £571 million (£451 million).

Mr Aikens admitted the company had underestimated the fragility of the Diamond White brand when it cut back on advertising. Cider sales fell 13 per cent in the year to April 30, when the total market shrunk 3 per cent. Its share of the market fell from 41 per cent to 37 per cent, and is expected to drop another point this year.

Profits from the wholesale business rose to £7 million, from £2.7 million, through first-time contributions from new stores. Mr Aiken ruled out any further acquisitions this year.

Earnings fell to 18.4p (31.9p) a share. The total dividend is held at 24p a share, with a final 15p due on October 17. No dividend increase is expected this year.

Tempus, page 28

DEARING
THE FULL RETORT.

Beyond the hype : The winners and losers

Why make do with just a glimpse of the Dearing Report, when you can read our incisive retort? Examine Dearing's full recommendations only in this week's issue of The Times Higher Education Supplement. Plus, in the wake of the Report higher education leaders respond. Make sure you have your own copy, on sale tomorrow.

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT
ERUDITION. EVERY FRIDAY.

SCIENCES ARTS LANGUAGES BOOKS POLITICS ECONOMICS JOBS FUNDING

ملكا، سند الأصل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Bulls run again on Fed Chairman's comments

CITY investors were riding high on the back of upbeat comments by Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Chairman, to Congress about the US economy.

Supported by the positive response overnight to his views by Wall Street, prices raced ahead in London, but were unable to maintain the early pace. Retail sales during June were higher than expected, largely because of building society windfalls.

At one stage the FTSE 100 index was almost 85 points higher before the profit-makers moved in as Wall Street gave up early gains. The FTSE 100 closed 27.8 up at 4,874.5, with the FTSE 250 20.0 higher at 4,481.8. A total of 846 million shares changed hands.

Grand Metropolitan retreated 5p to 617p despite the fact that LVMH was again adding to its holding. It has been confirmed that Bernard Arnault's luxury goods group has raised its stake to 232.7 million shares, or 11.05 per cent. To help to finance the stakebuilding, it has reduced its 14 per cent stake in **Guinness**, down 6½p at 591½p to 236 million shares, or 12.46 per cent.

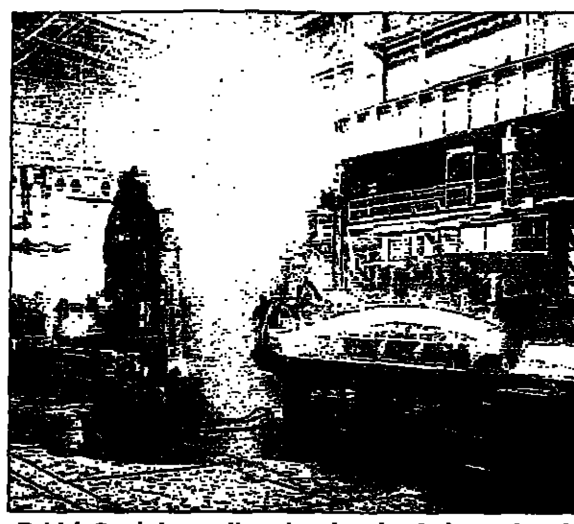
M Arnault wants to merge the drinks interests of all three companies and has opposed the £24 billion merger between GrandMet and Guinness.

The "for sale" sign has gone up on **BOC Group's** healthcare operation. The asking price is reckoned to be £1 billion, which has pleased a market expecting the proceeds to reduce greatly the group's £1.7 billion debt mountain. The shares rose 69p to £11.41½ on turnover of 3.5 million shares.

As expected, the strong pound took its toll of first-half figures from **Reuters**, down 13p at 598½p, and the group admitted that revenues and earnings would be affected in the second half. Peter Job, chief executive, has confirmed plans to buy back £200 million worth of shares.

The strong pound is continuing to bite deep into profit margins at **British Steel**, down 1p at 155¾p. But shareholders at the annual meeting were told by Sir Brian Moffat, chairman, that he was optimistic about prospects.

Worried also by the effect of a strong pound, **Allied Colloids** slipped 3½p to 111p, but ICI firmed 3½p to 925p as NatWest Securities, the broker, urged clients to continue adding to their holdings.



British Steel shares dipped 1p, but the chairman is upbeat

There are still sellers of **Shield Diagnostics** at the higher levels as the company attempts to repair the damage done to its share price earlier this year by some corrupted laboratory tests. Yesterday the price raced up to 607½p on the back of its latest deal with Abbott Laboratories. The price closed 17½p off at 550p as 300,660 shares were traded in a thin market.

Biocompatibles was another volatile market, with the price touching £10.35 after being moved to comment about recent weakness in the shares. The group says that talks with Johnson & Johnson, aimed at agreeing a licensing deal for its phosphorylcholine coating for surgical stents, were continuing. The shares closed a further 8½p cheaper at 997½p.

British Building & Engineering stood out with a leap of 15½p at 70½p as speculation mounted that it will soon announce an agreed cash offer from **Britannia**. Britannia was unchanged at 30p.

Confirmation of agreed bid terms lifted **Colleagues Group** 16p to 93½p. Moore Corporation, a Canadian company, is offering 95p a share, valuing the direct marketing group at £21.6 million.

Bid terms from **Ramco Energy** lifted **JKX Oil & Gas** 3½p to 47½p. The all-share offer values JKX at around 46.3p a share, or £54 million. Ramco firmed 30p to £11.87½.

The near 4 per cent rise in half-year profits from **Spargo Consultants** did little to impress brokers, but the 13 per cent increase in the dividend was seen as a positive move. The price rose 2½p to 114½p, with brokers forecasting £1.45 million for the full year.

There were two newcomers to AIM. **Kingfisher Leisure** made an encouraging start. Placed at 160p, the shares opened at 173½p before dipping to 172½p. They closed at 173½p, a premium of 13½p.

Citadel Holdings was placed at 100p and opened at 105½p. After touching a peak for the day of 109½p, the price eventually closed at 106½p, a premium of 6½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** London responded to the overnight enthusiasm shown by US Treasury bonds to the Fed Chairman's view of the US economy and the strong pound. Prices at the longer end surged by around £1 and investors clamoured for stock in the latest Bank of England auction.

In the futures pit, brokers reported brisk business as the September series of the long gilt jumed £$\frac{5}{8}$ to £115$\frac{9}{16}$. A total of 123,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £$\frac{31}{32}$ higher at £111$\frac{23}{32}$, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished five ticks better at £102$\frac{11}{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The stock market soared again in early trading, extending the previous session's run into the record books. Profit-taking curbed the rally and at midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 36.69 ahead at 8,098.34.

The tide of windfall cash from building societies converting into banks found its way into retailers' tills last month. The cash accounted for the 0.6 per cent rise in retail sales to 5.4 per cent year-on-year.

Rod Forest, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, was not surprised by the outcome. "The effects of the windfall on sales has been entirely consistent with the upbeat trading statement out recently from Dixons. Big ticket items, such as carpets, furniture, electrical goods and do-it-yourself, all benefited," he said.

Furniture sales were 24 per cent up, electrical goods 28 per cent higher and carpets 30 per cent stronger. As to be expected, it was Dixons that led the retailers higher with a jump of 11p to 556p. Mr Forest continues to view Dixons as one of the better buys in the sector.

He said that the rest was as expected. The wet weather during June affected sales of clothing and footwear. Those to be hit by this are retailers such as Marks & Spencer, up 2½p at 588½p, and Burton, 1½p firmer at 131¾p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	8098.34 (+36.69)
S&P Composite	939.10 (+5.12)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20130.51 (-26.31)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	15738.81 (+292.03)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	988.48 (+27.86)

Sydney:

AO	2683.4 (+27.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4406.09 (+175.67)

Singapore:

Straits	1974.69 (+24.18)

Brussels:

General	14507.68 (+268.17)

Paris:

CAC-40	3003.53 (+82.40)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1204.80 (+29.00)

London:

FT 30	3088.0 (+15.5)
FTSE 100	4874.5 (+27.8)
FTSE 250	4481.8 (+20.0)
FTSE 350	2338.2 (+12.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2774.62 (+94.85)
FTSE All-Share	2282.67 (+11.76)
FTSE Non Financials	2297.52 (+10.43)
FTSE Fixed Interest	126.36 (+0.37)
FTSE Govt Secs	97.72 (+0.52)
Bargains	49366
SEAQ Volume	867.8m
US$	1.6810 (+0.0044)
German Mark	3.0712 (+0.032)
Exchange Index	106.6 (+0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5479
£:SDR	1.2213
RPI	157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ashtenne	135½	...
Cammell Laird	122½	+ 4
Citadel Holdings	106½	...
Delcam	267½	...
EMI B	115	...
European Mng	25	...
Galen Holdings	195	+ 1½
Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	...
Grosmont Hldgs Wrts	1	...
Helicon Pubslg	110½	- 1
Hitachi Credit (UK)	149½	...
Kingfisher Leisure	173½	...
Primesight	125½	- 4
Pycraft & Arnold	57	- 2
Reabourne Merlin	108½	...
Royalblue Group	207½	- 1
SBS Group	108½	- 1
Thorn B	21	...
Woolwich	287	- 2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brit Borneo n/p	51½	- 11
HIT Entert n/p (270)	55	...
Jarvis Fund Uts Cv n/p	1½	- 1¼
Lon Brid Sftw Cv n/p	39½	...
Mackie Intl n/p (20)	1¼	...
Tea Plant n/p (120)	5½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Avocel	177½p (+16p)
Gold Fields Prop	182½p (+13p)
Country Gdns	178½p (+11p)
Brewin Dolphin	200p (+11p)
Croda	293½p (+13p)
Cookson	214½p (+8p)
Blacks Leis	455p (+15½p)
Abbott Mead	340p (+10p)
Hutch Whamp	531p (+15½p)
Temple Bar	449p (+12½p)
Bank Scotland	440½p (+11p)
Reed Int	627½p (+13p)

FALLS:

Cantab Pharms	645p (-80p)
Concentric	117½p (-8p)
Hozelock	363½p (-23p)
Reuters	598½p (-11p)
Abbey Ntl	821½p (-15p)
Stagecoach	713½p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Too much cash

ON THE day that Scottish Widows decided that cash is king, Reuters was moaning that it could not get rid of its hoard. The saga of the group's £1 billion money mountain has engulfed what used to be considered an exciting, go-ahead, multimedia organisation. Today, Reuters has more of the look of a boring utility with a management in search of a mission.

Reuters should be a great deal more dynamic than it is. It has an unparalleled database of historical data, a formidable network of information gatherers providing up-to-the-minute news and financial information and a client base that would be the envy of most technology companies. It also throws off a lot of cash — £409 million in the first half of this year — which it could be investing in all sorts of clever things to sell to its clients, or novel distribution systems that would make its database accessible to the world and its personal computer.

Instead, Reuters has merely floundered around trying to give the money back to its shareholders, with little success, blaming the Government for its predicament. It is time for Peter Job to wake up. The Reuters growth machine is now suffering a fall in profits. Blaming the strong pound will do little to restore Reuters shares to their premium.

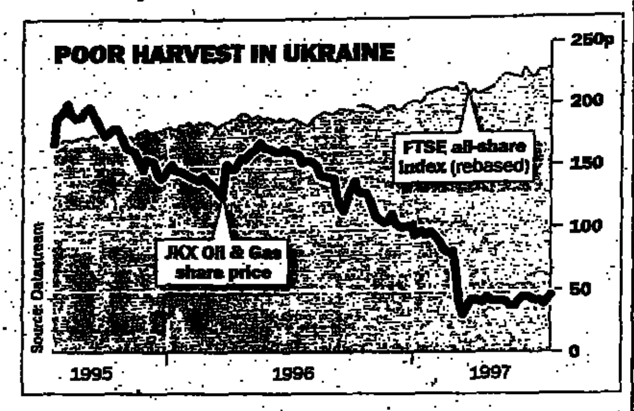
In the next few months Reuters will reveal the full extent of its millennium problems, which could well be another blow to the reputation of this media monolith. Meanwhile, monetary union will not help Reuters' foreign exchange information services one iota. This company needs to run ever faster to stand still, but it appears to be slowing. So will the shares.

Ramco/JKX Oil

IF ANYONE can make money from gas in Ukraine, it is probably Steve Remp, chief executive of Ramco, the oil services group turned exploration company that has bid £54 million for JKX Oil & Gas. Ramco is getting JKX for a song — just 46p per share compared with estimates of its asset value of about £1 per share.

JKX is cheap not because of its prospects but because of its record. The company has attractive assets, in particular a 49 per cent interest in the Poltava field, which contains 80 million barrels of oil and gas. JKX is producing in one of the world's largest gas markets, but getting paid is another matter. Last year's £2.4 million loss included a provision of £1.6 million after a contract collapsed.

JKX is a salutary lesson about novice oil companies launched with a fanfare and the backing of big names. The question is whether Ramco will be able to do better. The buyer starts with a more sensible strategy. JKX made the mistake of taking on the expense of operating in Ukraine, running up overheads of £7 million last year on turnover of just £15 million. Ramco's biggest success in Azerbaijan has been in the role of fixer, putting together a deal, retaining a minority investment and bringing in top oil companies with expertise and capital to do the job. Ramco will need to find a partner in Ukraine, and it could prove less investor-friendly than Azerbaijan.



BOC

AFTER endless badgering about its underperforming healthcare business, BOC has finally given in to the sceptics and put Ohmeda up for sale. So much for last year's assurances to the contrary. Ohmeda's profits have fallen from £99 million to £53 million over the past five years, but the gases group had been claiming that the healthcare company was set for a revival.

That is still the story but the turnround has been delayed. Ohmeda was not helped by a Zeneca patent extension, which hurt plans to launch a generic treatment. BOC claims it faced a choice of making a heavy investment commitment to Ohmeda, or finding a new owner. Given the existing demands on capital from the core gases businesses, there could only be one answer.

JP Morgan can still dress Ohmeda up quite nicely. The long fall in the price of Forane, the anaesthetic gas that contributed profits of £123 million in 1992, has come to an end — well, almost — and it still has more than half the market. Profits from the rest of the business, which includes anaesthesia machines and catheters, have been steadily rising. Also coming up is a potentially important treatment for respiratory failure and "blue baby" syndrome.

Optimists suggest BOC could receive almost £1 billion for Ohmeda, which would give BOC funds to expand its gases business further. Hoechst's decision to concentrate on pharmaceuticals may present one opportunity, since BOC is relatively weak in continental Europe.

Pace

GIL SCOTT-HERON, the jazz musician, once famously said that the revolution will not be televised. A glance at the share price of Pace Micro Technology indicates that television is not being revolutionised either.

Pace came to the market last year billed as the company that had everything. On the eve of the digital broadcasting age, it had contracts to supply a third of the decoders for the BSkyB-backed British Interactive Broadcasting — a key position in a potentially huge market.

Twelve months on, and we are still waiting. The City is getting impatient and the shares have lost 80 per cent of their value. Pace will just have to wait, but for how long? BIB has put its digital programming back until next spring. The huge cloud of uncertainty hovering over the company makes its crippled shares still seem too much of a gamble. In the mean time, consumers are waiting for the digital age before buying a new analogue decoder, creating a nasty hole in its market.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	975-970	Sep	1094-1090
Sep	996-995	Dec	1098-1095
Dec	1017-1015	Mar	1111-1110
Mar	1041-1040	May	1125-1124
May	1057-1055		
Jul	1072-1071	Volume:	5674

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1550 BID	Mar	unq
Sep	1560 SLR	May	...
Nov	1552 SLR	Jul	1530 SLR
Jan	unq	Volume:	2921

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	322.5-21.0
Spot	unq	Aug	319.5-16.0
Oct	327.6-27.0	Oct	312.0-[illegible]
Dec	322.5-21.6	Dec	[illegible]
Mar	324.5-23.6	Volume:	1492

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 22

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	92.54	110.80	97.07
(+/-)	-3.79	+5.19	+0.40
Eng/Wales	82.17	111.02	96.47
(+/-)	-4.15	+5.31	+0.26
Pig nos	-25.0	-39.0	-31.0
Scotland	95.74	110.22	100.90
(+/-)	-0.72	+3.75	0.05
Pig nos	-34.0	-19.0	n/c

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.70	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Sep)	18.40	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.45	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	19.70	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	19.75	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gasl	187 (n/c)	190 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	164 (-1)	165 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (-1)	86 (n/c)
Naphtha	195 (-1)	189 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	164.75-65.00	Nov	169.75-70.00
Sep	166.25-66.50	Dec	171.00-71.25
Oct	167.75-68.00		Vol: 12506

BRENT (6.00pm)

Sep	18.39-18.50	Dec	18.61-18.63
Oct	18.42-18.44	Jan	18.62-18.66
Nov	18.51-18.52		Vol: 23220

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	79.75	Sep	75.00
Nov	81.75	Nov	77.50
Jan	83.75	Jan	79.50
Mar	85.75	Mar	81.50
May	87.75	May	82.50
Volume:	355	Volume:	22

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	65.0
Mar	...	78.0
Apr	90.0	98.0
		Volume: 109

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Aug 60.00-61.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jul 97	1305	1305	1305
Aug 97	1270	1255	1270
Sep 97	1300	1285	1300
Oct 97	1410	1295	1395
Vol: 135 lots		Open interest: 3767	
	Index 1341 (-12)		

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2350.0-2360.0	2293.0-2294.0	155775
Lead ($/tonne)	613.00-614.00	647.00-648.00	21625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1570.0-1571.0	1557.0-1558.0	12925
Tin ($/tonne)	5325.0-5330.0	5375.0-5380.0	1990
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1617.0-1618.0	1631.5-1632.0	251725
Nickel ($/tonne)	6675.0-6680.0	6780.0-6785.0	50115

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Oct	Jan	Apr	Puts Oct	Jan	Apr
Allid Dom	420	45½	53½	57½	7	14½	16
(*453)	460	21	29½	35	21	32	34
ASDA	130	14	18	17	4	6	8
(*144)	160	2	6	9½	17	18	19
Boots	800	50	66	80	27	34	37
(*830)	850	27½	44	56	50	58	62
Br Airways	600	59	75	85	13	19	22
(*645)	650	30	45	58	33	40	43
BP	800	51	68	81	20	30	36
(*825)	850	27	45	55	44	57	60
Br Steel	140	19½	22	24	4	7	5
(*156)	160	7	11	12	10	13	12
C & W	600	44	60	75	24	33	39
(*611)	650	22	37	51	52	60	68
Cu	650	42	75	87	35	46	56
(*660)	700	31	52	61	63	77	83
ICI	900	57	93	98	32	43	57
(*925)	950	37	57	69	59	69	82
Land Sec	900	64	82	94	14	23	26
(*950)	950	34	53	66	34	42	47
M & S	550	54	64	76	11	16	19
(*587)	600	25	36	47	32	36	40
Nat West	850	68	100	117	54	77	91
(*859)	900	47	77	91	82	100	119
Sainsbury plc	390	26	34	42	12	20	23
(*394)	420	19	23	27	29	36	39
Sainsbury	420	30	40	49	13	19	22
(*437)	460	12	21	29	35	40	43
Shell	417	27	47	—	14	20	—
(*428)	433	18	29	—	21	27	—
Smal Bch	1200	73	110	131	49	71	77
(*1234)	1250	50	85	104	77	96	101
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	2100	131	186	229	56	97	102
(*2155)	2200	83	138	169	102	130	144

Series		Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	500	40	62	71	22	29	34
(*529)	550	25	40	47	51	54	66
Vodafone	280	26	34	39	9	13	17
(*298)	300	16	23	26	16	22	24

Series		Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	600	29	49	63	9	20	33
(*616)	650	7	27	39	37	47	54
Ladbroke	240	19	25	31	2	5	9
(*259)	260	7	14	20	10	17	18
Utd Bisc	200	18	23	27	1	5	6
(*215)	220	6	12	16	8	13	15

Series		Calls Oct	Jan	Apr	Puts Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA	600	31	45	54	21	27	31
(*603)	650	11	24	31	51	56	59
Thames W	650	49	69	70	21	37	43
(*679)	650	27	37	52	57	64	70

Series		Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	160	16	23	27	2	9	9
(*194)	200	4	13	17	9	18	19
Br Aero	1300	91	89	119	20	45	55
(*1325)	1350	24	61	91	44	68	74
Br Telcm	420	20	32	37	19	21	37
(*43)	460	7	17	22	44	54	57
Cadbury	550	47	57	72	3	11	17
(*590)	600	19	37	43	20	32	38
Guinness	550	45	59	69	4	13	16
(*590)	600	12	31	39	21	31	40
GEC	360	12	25	32	7	13	17
(*365)	390	2	12	20	26	29	32
Hanson	280	17	26	35	3	10	14
(*292)	300	6	16	25	12	20	23
LASMO	260	17	24	30	5	9	12
(*268)	280	5	14	20	15	18	22
Lucasvarity	180	11	17	23	3	7	11
(*197)	200	3	9	14	14	19	19
Pilkington	130	6	—	—	4	—	—
(*131)	140	3	—	—	10	—	—
Prudential	600	41	65	82	8	21	30
(*631)	650	17	40	57	30	47	55
Redland	300	21	31	37	2	6	12
(*296)	330	9	19	27	10	19	21
R-Royce	220	11	19	24	5	11	13
(*225)	240	3	11	15	17	22	23
Tesco	420	16	28	40	9	18	22
(*426)	460	2	11	25	36	41	44
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4861)

	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000
Calls						
Aug	178	141	110	92	61	43
Sep	220	194	162	132	110	89
Oct	251	225	196	167	145	124
Nov	290	266	235	204	181	154
Dec	—	307	—	240	—	190
Puts						
Aug	55	69	91	114	143	175
Sep	88	107	127	149	179	209
Oct	106	126	147	169	198	220
Nov	133	152	171	192	219	246
Dec	—	157	—	195	—	251

Series		Calls Oct	Jan	Apr	Puts Oct	Jan	Apr
Abbs Nat	800	60	50	97	37	43	56
(*821)	850	37	63	74	64	74	85
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1250	97	134	160	60	87	40
(*1290)	1300	63	109	125	85	112	125
Natl Pwr	550	42	53	63	14	24	27
(*560)	600	18	32	36	41	49	52

Series		Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo Well	1350	68	103	126	48	93	91
(*1350)	1400	49	80	107	98	111	119
HSBC	2000	150	249	271	54	98	111
(*2067)	2100	114	192	217	101	141	156
Reuter	550	62	74	88	6	16	22
(*598)	600	22	49	60	26	39	42
Royal & Sun	500	37	49	57	24	29	34
(*500)	550	11	24	31	53	59	64

Series		Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Blue Circ	390	32	42	50	1	8	11
(*418)	420	11	24	32	10	20	25

Series		Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Kingfisher	700	41	51	68	12	25	33
(*717)	750	10	29	44	37	52	57

Series	Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—

Series		Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Dixons	550	24	44	57	14	32	39
(*557)	600	11	24	35	50	56	52
EMI Group	548	39	50	62	20	32	37
(*552)	575	19	37	49	35	46	50
Tarmac	110	12	15	18	1	4	5
(*119)	120	7	9	13	5	8	10
Hillsdwn	160	19	—	—	1	—	—
(*176)	180	6	—	—	5	—	—
Lonrho	120	8	12	15	3	8	7
(*124)	130	4	8	11	9	10	13
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	150	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	300	11	18	22	11	16	19
(*304)	330	2	7	11	35	41	39
Lloyds TSB	650	39	69	77	30	43	51
(*657)	700	20	43	55	59	72	81
Sun Pwr	420	33	42	47	11	15	20
(*446)	460	12	22	28	30	35	39
Unilever	1700	76	118	159	31	55	66
(*1728)	1800	31	69	100	86	105	113

Jul 23, 1997 Tot: 51073 Call: 28029 Put: 23044 FTSE Call: 4912 Put: 15328

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	115-11	115-25	115-07	115-18	126830
Previous open interest 164286	Dec 97	115-07	115-07	115-02	115-05	423
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	103.52	103.52	103.17	103.22	213697
Previous open interest 281297	Dec 97	102.55	102.56	102.31	102.33	943
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	138.00	138.44	137.90	138.04	67846
Previous open interest 107906	Dec 97	109.80	110.10	109.62	109.82	296
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	125.43	125.64	125.40	125.58	2414
	Dec 97	124.91	124.91	124.87	124.9696	
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.82	92.84	92.79	92.81	25704
	Dec 97	92.62	92.66	92.59	92.63	43324
Previous open interest 625819	Mar 98	92.54	92.60	92.51	92.56	37245
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.79	96.80	96.75	96.76	35285
Previous open interest 1555342	Dec 97	96.69	96.69	96.59	96.61	55953
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.35	93.37	93.32	93.34	12433
Previous open interest 362849	Dec 97	93.78	93.79	93.75	93.76	12494
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.23	0
	Mar 98				99.06	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.51	98.54	98.47	98.48	11757
Previous open interest 138990	Dec 97	98.37	98.40	98.32	98.34	9112
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.75	95.79	95.71	95.74	1265
Previous open interest 36357	Dec 97	95.76	95.76	95.70	95.71	638
FTSE 100	Sep 97	4940.0	4969.0	4866.0	4987.0	15184
Previous open interest 78451	Dec 97	5020.0	5020.0	5020.0	4950.0	6

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed: 6[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-7	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-6[illegible]	7-7[illegible]	7-7[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-6[illegible]	7-7[illegible]	7-7[illegible]
Overnight: open 6½, close 6½					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	6[illegible]	7½	7½
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-7[illegible]	7[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.53	n/a	5.57	5.67	5.85
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-7[illegible]	7-7[illegible]	7-7[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5[illegible]	5[illegible]	5[illegible]	5[illegible]	5[illegible]
Deutschemark:	3[illegible]	3[illegible]	3-3	3[illegible]	3[illegible]
French Franc:	3-3	3[illegible]	3[illegible]	3[illegible]	3[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	1[illegible]	1[illegible]	1[illegible]	1[illegible]	1[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $323.70-324.00 Close: $324.20-324.70 High: $324.55-325.05 Low: $323.35-323.85 AM: $324.35 PM: $324.00

Krugerrand: $322.75-325.75 (£192.75-194.75)

Platinum: $476.00 (£247.45) Silver: $4.32 (£2.565) Palladium: $197.00 (£117.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for July 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4580-3.4652	3.4580-3.4611	1¼-1pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	63.390-63.560	63.390-63.497	21-15pr	60-53pr
Copenhagen	11.668-11.720	11.691-11.702	¾-¼pr	1¾-¼pr
Dublin	1.1337-1.1416	1.1372-1.1401	¾-2pr	24-17pr
Frankfurt	3.0703-3.0770	3.0703-3.0736	1¼-1pr	3-2¾pr
Lisbon	309.75-310.55	309.92-310.42	½-¼pr	1¾-1pr
Madrid	258.55-259.06	258.57-258.79	38-27pr	119-100pr
Milan	2982.1-2990.3	2983.9-2987.6	½ds-¼pr	½ds-¼pr
Montreal	2.3114-2.3225	2.3204-2.3225	0.71-0.66pr	1.37-1.28pr
New York	1.6796-1.6828	1.6807-1.6816	0.158-0.167pr	0.56-0.537pr
Oslo	12.595-12.651	12.595-12.610	¾-¼pr	1-¼pr
Paris	10.352-10.376	10.354-10.365	¾-¼pr	1-¾pr
Stockholm	13.149-13.196	13.156-13.176	¾-¼pr	1-¾pr
Tokyo	193.82-194.83	194.60-194.83	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr
Vienna	21.602-21.654	21.602-21.626	¾-¼pr	2-1½pr
Zurich	2.4930-2.5025	2.4975-2.5032	1¼-1¼pr	3¾-3½pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3568-1.3577
Austria	12.85-12.86
Belgium (Com)	37.71-37.75
Canada	1.3782-1.3787
Denmark	6.9540-6.9560
France	6.1580-6.1610
Germany	1.8266-1.8271
Hong Kong	7.7455-7.7465
Ireland	1.4760-1.4780
Italy	1773.00-1774.50
Japan	115.62-115.67
Malaysia	2.6350-2.6380
Netherlands	2.0570-2.0580
Norway	7.5016-7.5092
Portugal	184.30-184.60
Singapore	1.4670-1.4680
Spain	153.83-153.88
Sweden	7.8278-7.8353
Switzerland	1.4845-1.4855

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6821-1.6848
Australia dollar	2.2812-2.2841
Bahrain dinar	0.6265-0.6385
Brazil real*	1.8153-1.8198
China yuan	13.761-14.061
Cyprus pound	0.8870-0.8970
Finland markka	8.9450-9.0610
Greece drachma	474.25-481.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.0343-13.0437
India rupee	59.46-60.42
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5045-0.5145
Malaysia ringgit	4.4321-4.4398
New Zealand dollar	2.5913-2.5949
Pakistan rupee	67.50 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0500-6.1740
Singapore dollar	2.4675-2.4706
S Africa rand (com)	7.6140-7.7160
U A E dirham	6.1025-6.2265

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,400	Ladbroke	1,400
ASDA Gp	5,800	Land Secs	972
Abbey Ntl	4,500	Legal & Gn	1,600
Allnce & Leic	948	Lloyds TSB	10,300
Allied Dom	4,600	LucasVarity	3,700
AB Foods	54	Marks Spr	3,100
BAA	5,100	Mercury Asi	1,100
BAT Inds	8,700	NatWst Bk	7,900
BG	41,900	Nat Grid	2,800
BOC	4,000	Nat Power	2,400
BP	5,900	Next	1,400
BSkyB	2,400	Orange	10,200
BTR	10,500	P & O	2,500
BT	20,900	Pearson	1,500
Bk of Scot	3,600	PowerGen	1,200
Barclays	5,800	Prudential	5,300
Bass	1,700	RMC	757
Blue Circle	2,600	Railtrack	1,400
Boots	3,300	Rank Group	2,600
BAe	2,700	Reckitt Col	955
BA	14,900	Reed Intl	1,200
British Land	1,700	Rentokil	1,900
Brit Steel	11,900	Reuters	8,000
Burmah Cstl	1,200	Rio Tinto	1,500
Cable Wire	2,400	Rolls Royce	4,200
Cadbury	5,700	Royal Sun	25,300
Carlton Cms	2,400	Royal Bk Sct	3,600
Centrica	8,900	Safeway	4,100
Cm Union	1,800	Sainsbury	4,900
Dixons	3,200	Schroders	143
EMI	3,400	Scot & New	1,200
Energy Gp	3,900	Scot Power	2,400
Enterpr Oil	1,100	Svrn Trent	1,200
GKN	1,900	Shell Trans	15,500
GRE	3,300	Siebe	3,600
GUS	1,600	SmKl Bch	5,700
Gen Acc	1,300	Smiths Inds	1,800
Gen Elec	8,600	Std Chartd	2,600
Glaxo Well	9,500	TI Gp	2,500
Granada	4,600	Tate & Lyle	3,000
Grand Met	7,400	Tesco	2,800
Guinness	10,000	Thames W	496
HSBC	2,000	Tomkins	9,900
Halifax	5,700	Unilever	1,800
Hanson	1,200	Utd Utilities	6,400
Hays	255	Utd News	1,300
ICI	5,000	Vodafone	7,300
Imp Tob	797	Whitbread	1,300
Kingfisher	1,200	Wolseley	752
LASMO	4,800	Zeneca	2,200

[illegible]

	Jul 23 midday	Jul 22 close
AMP Inc	49	47
AMR Corp	99	99
AT & T	36	35
Abbott Labs	63	63
Advanced Micro	37	37
Aetna Life	109	108
Ahmanson (HF)	51	50
Air Prod & Chem	85	85
AirTouch Comm	28	27
Albertson's	37	38
Alcan Aluminum	35	35
Allied Signal	93	91
Alum Co of Am	84	83
Amerada Hess	55	55
Amer El Power	43	44
Amer Express	79	78
Amer Genl Corp	52	50
Amer Home Pr	81	80
Amer Intl	150	150
Amer Stores	26	26
Amer Standard	47	47
Ameritech	67	68
Amgen	60	59
Amoco	91	93
Andrew Corp	26	26
Anheuser-Busch	46	47
Apple Computer	16	16
Archer Daniels	23	23
Armco	5	5
Armstrong Wrld	70	70
Asarco	32	32
Atl Richfield	70	70
Autodesk Corp	33	33
Auto Data Pro	48	48
Avery Dennison	42	41
Avon Products	77	76
Baker Hughes	45	46
Baltimr Gas & El	28	28
Banc One	50	50
BankAmerica	70	69
Bank of NY	46	46
Bankers Tr NY	96	95
Barnett Banks	54	54
Bausch & Lomb	42	42
Baxter Intl	58	58
Bectn Dickinsn	54	54
Bell Atlantic	74	74
BellSouth	47	47
Black & Decker	40	40
Block (H&R)	35	35
Boeing	59	58
Boise Cascade	37	37
Boston Scien	72	71
Bristol Myrs Sq	83	81
Browning Ferris	36	36
Brunswick	32	32
Burlington Nthn	95	94
CMS Energy Corp	35	35
CPC Intl	97	96
CSX	57	57
Campbell Soup	50	50
Carolina Pwr	34	34
Case Corp	63	63
Caterpillar	58	58
Central & SW	20	20
Champion Intl	61	61
Chase Manhtn	107	105
Chevron Corp	77	77
Chrysler	38	38
Chubb Corp	67	67
Cigna Corp	185	184
Citicorp	128	127
Clorox	132	131
Coastal Corp	51	56
Coca Cola	70	70
Coca Cola Ent	28	28
Colgate-Palm	76	77
Columbia Gas	70	70
Columbia/HCA	34	33
Compaq Comp	135	131
Comp Ass Int	64	64
Conagra	67	67
Cons Edison	30	30
Cons Nat Gas	58	58
Cooper Inds	51	51
Corestates	59	58
Corning Inc	61	61
C'wide Credit	32	32
Crestar Finl	45	45
Crown Cork	48	48
Dana Corp	41	41
Dayton Hudson	57	57
Deere	57	57
Delta Air Lines	88	87
Deluxe Corp	34	34
Digital Equip	38	38
Dillard Dept St	35	35
Disney (Walt)	79	77
Dominion Res	36	36
Donelley (RR)	40	40
Dover Corp	69	69
Dow Chemical	90	90
Dow Jones	41	41
Dresser	40	40
Duke Power	49	49
Dun & Brdstreet	26	26
Du Pont	67	66
Eastman Chem	58	58
Eastman Kodak	68	68
Eaton Corp	90	90

	Jul 23 midday	Jul 22 close
Edison Int	24	24
Elect Data Sys	45	45
Emerson Elec	58	57
Engelhard Corp	22	21
Enron Corp	38	38
Entergy	27	27
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	62	62
FMC Corp	80	80
FPL Group	46	46
Federal Express	60	60
Fifth Third Banc	61	61
First Bk Sys	86	87
Fleet Fnl Grp	63	64
Fluor Corp	57	56
Ford Motor	40	40
Fortune Brands	36	36
Franklin Res	79	79
GTE Corp	47	47
Gannett	104	104
Gap Inc Del	41	41
Gen Dynamics	81	82
Gen Electric	72	71
Gen Mills	67	67
Gen Motors	58	57
Gen Reinsurance	194	194
Gen Signal	50	50
Genuine Parts	32	33
Georgia Pac	95	95
Gillette	100	99
Glaxo Welc ADR	45	45
Goodrich (BF)	45	46
Goodyear Tire	63	63
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26	26
Great Lakes	48	48
Halliburton	45	45
Harcourt General	47	47
Heinz (HJ)	48	48
Hercules	53	53
Hershey Foods	55	55
Hewlett Packard	67	66
Hilton Hotels	31	30
Home Depot	47	47
Homestake Mng	13	13
Honeywell	77	77
Household Intl	117	117
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	23	23
ITT Corp	63	63
Ikon Office	26	26
Illinois Tool	54	53
Illinova	22	22
INCO	29	29
Ingersoll Rand	63	62
Inland Steel	23	23
Intel Corp	90	89
IBM	105	103
Intl Flav & Fr	51	50
Intl Paper	59	59
James River Va	39	39
Jostn & Johnsn	63	62
Kellogg	88	88
Kerr-McGee	67	66
Kimberly-Clark	50	49
Kmart	10	10
Knight-Ridder	50	50
Lilly (Eli)	113	113
Limited Inc	20	20
Lincoln Nat	66	66
Litton	57	57
Liz Claiborne	50	49
Lockheed Martin	102	101
Louisiana Pac	23	23
MCI Comm	34	34
Manpower Inc	48	47
Marriott Int	68	68
Marsh & McLnt	71	71
Masco Corp	42	42
May Dept St	52	52
Maytag Corp	27	28
McDonalds	51	50
McDonnell D	72	72
McGraw Hill	66	65
Mead Corp	70	70
Medtronic	91	91
Mellon Bk	48	48
Merck Inc	106	106
Merrill Lynch	66	66
Microsoft	145	144
Minnesota Mine	99	100
Mobil Corp	75	75
Monsanto	51	51
Morgan (JP)	107	107
Motorola Inc	81	80
Natl Semi	34	34
Natl Service Ind	48	48
Navistar Int	20	20
NY Times A	52	51
Newmont Mng	39	39
Nike B	62	61
NL Industries	13	13
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	57	57
Norfolk Sthrn	114	112
Nthn State Pwr	50	50
Norwest Corp	63	62
Nynex Corp	56	56
Occidental Pet	26	24
Ohio Edison	22	22
Oracle	57	56

	Jul 23 midday	Jul 22 close
Oryx Energy Co	23	24
Owens Corning	41	41
PPG Industries	61	61
PMI Group	59	59
PNC Bank	43	43
PPAL Res	20	20
Paccar Inc	47	47
Pacificorp	22	22
Pac Enterprises	32	32
Pall Corp	23	24
Parker Hannifin	61	62
Peco Energy	22	22
Penney (JC)	57	57
Pennzoil	76	76
Pepsico	38	38
Pfizer	61	60
Pharm & Upjhn	37	37
Phelps Dodge	85	85
Philip Morris	43	42
Phillips Pet	45	45
Pitney Bowes	74	74
Polaroid	59	60
Procter & Gmbl	152	151
Progressive	97	96
Providian	34	33
Pub Serv E & G	24	25
Quaker Oats	45	45
Ralston Purina	88	87
Raychem Corp	93	93
Raytheon	55	55
Reebok Intl	50	50
Reynolds Metals	74	74
Rockwell Intl	64	64
Rohm & Haas	93	93
Royal Dutch	55	54
Rubbermaid	25	25
SBC Comms	59	58
Safeco Corp	46	46
St Paul's Cos	80	80
Sallie Mae	139	138
Salomon Inc	56	55
Sara Lee Corp	44	44
Schering Plough	50	50
Schlumberger	75	75
Seagram	38	38
Sears Roebuck	59	59
Shell Trans	44	44
Sherwin Wilms	31	31
Silicon Graphics	18	18
Snap-On-Tools	40	40
Southern Co	21	22
Southtrust	44	44
Sprint Corp	47	49
Stanley Works	44	44
Sun Company	31	31
Sun Microsys	46	46
Suntrust	61	61
Supervalu	40	40
Synovus Fin	28	28
Sysco Corp	38	38
TRW Inc	59	59
TIG Hldgs	31	31
Tandem Comp	27	26
Tandy Corp	56	55
Temple Inland	65	65
Tenet Healthcare	29	27
Tenneco	47	48
Texaco	116	113
Texas Inst	113	113
Texas Utilities	34	34
Textron	67	67
Thermo Elect	34	34
Time Warner	52	52
Times-Mirror A	57	57
Timken	35	35
Torchmark	77	72
Toys R Us	[illegible]	[illegible]
Transamerica	97	97
Travelers	68	68
Tribune	[illegible]	[illegible]
UST Inc	28	28
UAL	[illegible]	[illegible]
US West Cmm	[illegible]	[illegible]
US West Media	21	[illegible]
USAirways Group	[illegible]	[illegible]
USX Marathon	32	[illegible]
Unicom	22	[illegible]
Unilever NV	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Camp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Carbide	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unisys Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
USF&G Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
United Tech	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unocal Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
VF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	[illegible]	[illegible]
Waste Mngmt	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Westinghouse	[illegible]	[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Whirlpool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Whitman	[illegible]	[illegible]
Winn Dixie	[illegible]	[illegible]
Witco Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Woolworth	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Xerox	[illegible]	[illegible]
Xilinx Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]

Dividend grab is economic nonsense

You were warned. Millions of us decided at election time that we did not want a Conservative government to continue. The downside was that, in the absence of a rival ideology, we would elect the most politically correct administration in history.

Nowhere has this fear of pointless political correctness been more offensively fulfilled than in Gordon Brown's first Budget. The Chancellor excused his £5 billion-a-year grab on dividends paid to pension funds and charities on the grounds that "the present system encourages companies to pay out dividends rather than reinvest their profits". In the modern manner, Mr Brown's devastating deterrent to savings was disguised as an incentive to economic growth.

The agenda is an old Labour one. It dates back to the revolution in company tax made in Lord Callaghan's comparable first Labour Budget of 1965, which proved as misguided in its effects as any until Mr Brown's effort on July 2. The philosophy is simple: dividends bad, investment good. This has only tangential connections to the corporation tax system.

The Tory imputation system of the early 1970s was devised to make it tax-neutral for companies to retain profits or to pay them out in dividends. This redressed the supposed 1965 bias against dividends, which had actually resulted in a relative cut in retentions. But it did not allow for the growth of pension funds and their even greater rise in influence as shareholders. By slashing the value of dividends to these tax-free gross funds, Mr Brown aims to redress the theoretical balance once again.

Essentially, Mr Brown aims to reinstate the reforms proposed by the late old Labour Lord Kaldor a generation ago. Lord Kaldor was a great economist whose profound insights have enduring value. But he was not, as it turned out, a great tax adviser. The punier figures who advise Mr Brown 30 years on have little grounding in reality to commend them and no compensating claim to intellectual respect.

There are certainly instances where, through changing circumstance, companies paid too much in dividends to invest enough from retained earnings to keep their existing businesses in good fettle. The former Hanson group and BTR come to mind. Both depended on repeating one-off takeover gains that could not go on for ever. In both cases, market forces dealt with the imbalance, at the expense of shareholders who were not fully apprised of the problem, markets being far from perfect.

These are, however, exceptions. Little evidence has been put forward to suggest that big companies — the sort beholden to the dividend demands of big fund managers — are deterred from investing because dividends absorb too much of profits, any more than they were when the Wilson committee investigated a generation ago. Rather the reverse. Many finance directors of successful but mature companies view equity capital (including retained earnings) as a needlessly expensive form of finance. They have paid out special dividends or promoted share buybacks in order to switch to debt finance. Much mindlessly fashionable rationalisation is doubtless going on here, but there is at least no lack of equity support.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Investors want high-growth companies with opportunities to expand to go for it. Their reward lies in capital growth and, ultimately, in dividends rising strongly from a low base. There is no demand to return cash.

Attitudes are different when you come to companies in mature industries that have limited opportunities to grow their existing businesses much faster than the economy. They present a different choice. Should the board invest surplus cash in new ventures or pay it to shareholders and let them choose new investments?

There does seem to be a genuine difference here between Anglo-Saxon and continental/Japanese practice. But we should not be too defensive about UK methods. On the whole, big corporations have a poor record of diversifying into new exciting technologies. Better, perhaps, to take the cash out and use our sophisticated venture capital industry to back the new.

Dividend policy is a silly subplot to arguments about the level of corporate investment. By far the greatest deterrent is the level of money interest rates. Second to that is high real interest rates. Even in an inflationary economy, high money interest rates multiply the risk of grassroots investment, especially investing in expansion. No wonder a risk-averse culture has grown up that prefers takeovers of competitors or other well-established businesses as the easy way to expand and a safer use of investors' money and limited managerial skills.

The fall in money interest rates in recent years offers the greatest hope for a secular rise in the demand for savings to invest. If the Chancellor could take more responsibility for sound economic management, rather than passing the buck to a Bank of England committee that relies solely on interest rates, so much the better.

Meantime, the Budget measures are surely a fine example of hypocrisy. Unless the Chancellor is a fool, He must know that his Finance Bill is guaranteed to achieve the opposite of his stated purpose. Savers are being taxed by an extra £5 billion a year, supposedly to aid corporate investment in the economy. There is no reason to think that will be achieved. Although there is a greater economic incentive to substitute retentions for dividends, there is an income incentive to raise dividends relative to retentions to compensate. Who knows which will prevail?

One thing is certain. Cash is being extracted from people's savings to finance current government expenditure. The dividend grab, far from being an incentive to invest, is a cynical move to divert £5 billion a year from investment into government consumption.

American grand tobacco settlement ducks the difficult but vital issues

America's grand tobacco settlement, the ceasefire pact between cigarette makers and the anti-smoking lobby after decades of courtroom warfare, shows signs of unravelling. For good reason: even fervent anti-tobacco campaigners should have misgivings about the precedents it sets.

The implications extend beyond the US. Other governments may be tempted to clone the deal, and its mistakes, although the $1.9 billion bid on Tuesday by BAT Industries for Mexico's largest cigarette maker shows that less-regulated countries will offer tobacco companies refuge for years. Beyond tobacco, the message is even more significant: like the windfall tax, it represents an opportunistic raid on the deep pockets of an unpopular industry, by politicians inclined to duck the responsibilities of government.

AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

The pact, announced on June 20, is the outcome of lawsuits brought by the attorneys-general of 40 states and other plaintiffs, on the grounds that the states have had to pay the medical costs of treating smoking-related illness.

In the past two weeks, while Congress and the President ponder whether to make the deal law, its critics have been on the attack. Mississippi has jumped the gun, breaking ranks to settle on its own and secure the cash quickly. Newt Gingrich, leader of the Republicans in the House of Representatives, has forecast months of delay, although after support this week from President Clinton, the deal is still thought likely to survive in some form.

The deal requires US tobacco companies to pay plaintiffs up to $368.5 billion, a sum equivalent to the gross domestic product of Australia. Part of the money will be spent on providing healthcare for children without medical insurance. Companies will also accept a ban on billboards, vending machines, sports promotions, and advertising characters such as the Marlboro Man. Cigarette packets will have to carry labels saying "smoking can kill you" and manufacturers will have to disclose for the first time the levels of tar, nicotine and additives, believed to make US cigarettes among the world's most hazardous.

In return, companies would be immune to state lawsuits and class actions in the US. Individuals and foreign groups could still sue, but tobacco industry experts are sanguine about this threat, largely because lawyers will be less interested in pressing these less lucrative cases.

The deal is hugely popular, in a country now turning its puritanical streak against its 45 million smokers. Tobacco companies have become popular villains for the way they have contested suggestions that their products might be addictive or life-threatening, while battling to hide details of their ingredients. They have deployed every check and balance of the American political system to keep themselves as lightly regulated as much of the food industry.

It is certainly time that regulation is tightened. But there are worrying points about the way it is happening. For a start, the pact bears too clearly the imprint of its origins as a commercial deal, not least in that lawyers' fees may amount to more than $4 billion, far greater than in any comparable deal. Conventionally generated legislation is at least nominally designed to serve the public interest, whatever compromises are later struck. But in reaching their bargain, state governments were mainly concerned to raise money, and tobacco companies to cap their liability. The consequences run throughout the pact's 68 pages.

Cigarette makers are to give much clearer warnings and will not advertise on billboards

In terms of protecting public health and deterring smoking, the most important part of the deal is the curbing of the industry's future behaviour. But once the prospect of the settlement bonanza appeared real, the states' lawyers accepted amendments to the fine print that make the curbs near-useless. On paper, the pact gives the Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate nicotine and ratchet down levels in cigarettes. But first, the FDA must show that this would not create "significant demand for contraband", such as a black market in stronger cigarettes from Mexico, a formidable legal task.

Similarly, the popular clause that requires cigarette makers to drive down youth smoking by 30 per cent in five years, and by 60 per cent in 10 years, is weaker than it seems. Although companies face $2 billion in annual penalties if they miss these targets, threequarters of the fine can be waived if they have pursued all "reasonably available measures".

The courtroom origins of the deal show most clearly in its least justifiable element: the retrospective punishment of companies who were acting within the law at the time. Michael Moore, Attorney-General of Mississippi, made this explicit in June, declaring: "We wanted to do something that would punish this industry for its past misconduct."

This principle has enraged conservatives; many others also feel misgivings. Without denying the addictive qualities of cigarettes, many feel that smokers bear some responsibility for their habit after years of warnings about the dangers. The deal also rests on the dubious calculation by state governments of the costs of paying for smokers' healthcare; as many have bluntly pointed out, by dying earlier, smokers may have saved them money.

In defending the punitive element of the deal, some might argue that businesses were acting unethically, albeit legally. There is much to be said for current fashion, particularly in Britain, for reminding businesses that they have ethical responsibilities. But notions of what is acceptable behaviour have changed: even after the dangers became known, smoking continued to be considered acceptable. Many find it unfair that companies should be saddled with costs of this scale, years after the event, let alone with responsibilities that properly belong with government.

The feature of the deal that is most troubling is the attempt to justify it by appropriating part of the settlement for the unrelated matter of poor children's healthcare costs. Mr Clinton played the children card heavily this week in indicating that the deal, in principle, had his support.

But this purely political move is no more than the transfer of a large slice of wealth from an unpopular rich group to popular poor group. In this, it resembles Gordon Brown's windfall tax on utilities, earmarked to pay for schemes to get the young unemployed back to work. The US tobacco settlement and Mr Brown's tax are both attempts to shore creaking benefit systems with one-off raids on the corporate sector, while ducking the politically difficult task of persuading the electorate to pay more or expect less.

Others countries' politicians may not abdicate as much of their job, passing it on to the courts, as do their American counterparts. But as this deal shows, attacking big business offers an internationally tempting escape route from the responsibilities of government.

Ceasefire brings fresh hopes for boom in tourism

Eileen McCabe compares experiences in Northern Ireland and the Republic

A businessman in Co Fermanagh who has just rebuilt his bombed hotel laughed nervously when asked what he thought of tourism prospects in the wake of the recently declared IRA ceasefire. "We are not making any comment. We just want to sit quietly and say nothing. Look what happened to us 12 months ago," he said.

His hotel, on the shore of Lough Erne in one of Northern Ireland's top tourist areas, was badly damaged when an explosion ripped through its foyer. Now back in business, he is anxious about the future.

Although his hotel was the only tourist venue to be bombed between ceasefires, the whole sector was badly shaken by the resumption of IRA violence and the civil unrest in Drumcree.

As expected, tourism was the first sector to benefit from the environment of peace after the first ceasefire was declared in August 1994. In 1995, the number of holidaymakers to Northern Ireland jumped almost 70 per cent to 460,000. Such was the level of interest, that some operators complained about a scarcity of accommodation. But just as hoteliers and tour operators started savouring the pleasure of working in a peaceful environment, events on the streets began to go sour.

In July 1995, the international media returned to the North to focus their lenses on the riots that followed an Orange Order parade through a Nationalist area in Drumcree. Barely six months later the IRA ended its ceasefire with a huge bomb in London's Canary Wharf.

Despite these blows, tourist inquiries continued at an encouraging rate. But even the most hardy tourist was, says the Northern Ireland Tourist Office, put off by last summer. Daily images on their TV screens of riots, road blockades and civil strife in Northern Ireland finally put an end to the tourist boom. In 1996 the number of holidaymakers fell 30 per cent to 333,000 and this year numbers are believed to have slipped again — almost back to pre-1994 ceasefire levels. The experience of tour operators such as Dublin's Abbey Travel is typical. They worked hard to encourage interest in Northern Ireland after the first ceasefire, but last summer found themselves having to move quickly to redirect some of their customers away from Belfast when violence spilled on to its streets.

Since Drumcree in 1996, consumer confidence began to fade. The contrast of fortune between the tourism sectors on either side of the border could not be more stark.

In the Republic the number of tourists has grown 10 per cent each year over the past decade. Since 1988 bed numbers have almost doubled as investment flowed into hotel construction. According to the Republic's tourist board, the number of total overseas tourists — which includes holidaymakers, business travellers and visitors to relatives — reached 4.7 million last year and generated revenue of Ir£1.45 billion (£1.28 billion).

The Northern Ireland tourist board says it had 1.4 million overseas tourists in the same year, but they spent only £205 million. Even allowing for the fact that the North is about a fifth the size of the Republic and has a population of 1.5 million, compared with more than 3.5 million, the gap is large.

But, given that the product on either side of the border is similar and that the two tourist authorities recently agreed to market the island of Ireland as a single tourist destination, it is clear the gap could quickly be closed.

Although it is too early to predict when that might happen, even the most hard-bitten hotelier in Northern Ireland can take some comfort from the fact that the present ceasefire has come just as tour operators are putting the final touches to their 1998 brochures, allowing Northern Ireland to be included in their packages.

Chaos theory

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

"LAURA MAXWELL: Building a New Life in Los Angeles." From the latest *Hello!* magazine — look, I came across it at the dentist, OK? The estranged wife of Ian Maxwell describes her life in Captain Bob's family in terms so sycophantic that one feels some regret that Hitler's secretary died the other week and so was deprived of the full *Hello!* treatment. Rude and a bully, but, says Laura — now taken up with an animal rights activist — "you had to hand it to a man who was able to create this much chaos".

Those accountants and lawyers investigating the Maxwell empire wanted to make money, or their names, and they used the pensioners as their excuse — "I don't think many really cared." By contrast, "a particular torment during the tense months preceding the brothers' dawn arrests in June 1992 was being silenced by *sub judice* laws forbidding them even from expressing empathy for those pensioners whose funds were missing." Beyond parody.

Maxwell: rude and a bully

● *ANXIOUS days at the swish headquarters of casino operator Capital Corporation, waiting to see whether Margaret Beckett will allow London Clubs to bid again. The smart money says she will. Last time the defence team was led by Nigel Pantling, now out of Hambros after his part in the Lanica Trust affair. Penny Scott, manager under Pantling, is on a year's sabbatical. By a complete coincidence, Richard Redmayne, Lanica's broker at HSBC James Capel, is a non-executive director of — Capital. Small world.*

Unbelievable

I HAVE absolutely no idea who is pulling whose leg here. John Williams, managing director of Knight Williams, is backing the appointment of Kenneth Jordan as small investor representative on Damien, my working name for the successor to the Securities and Investments Board. As Jordan is head of the action group that has made life hell for Knight Williams since the company went into liquidation in 1995, this is rather like David Mellor endorsing the late Sir James Goldsmith for his political skills.

Knight Williams insists the support is serious. But there is more. In a letter from Williams to Chancellor Gordon Brown, Jordan is especially commended for his access to confidential information — so much so that Williams has complained to the SIB that members have leaked such information to him. The notion of Jordan and SIB in bed together is only marginally less fanciful than that of Knight Williams supporting him.

● *FUN with statistics. The average increase in professional accountants' salaries was 4.7 per cent in the first half of this year, according to Hays Accountancy Personnal. Whoopee, that's almost 10 per cent a year, isn't it? Wrong, because the rise over the entire past year was . . . 4.7 per cent. So our number-crunchers got nothing at all in the last half of last year. Probably not surprising, because most people's salaries rise on January 1. The piece of research, therefore, is pretty useless. But it came to you from an accountant.*

All change

HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE has ditched SBC Warburg in favour of Panmure Gordon as house broker. Warburg was the main marketmaker in the company's shares, and the decision was taken "to make sure the broker's interest was 100 per cent aligned with ours". No suggestion that Warburg had been putting its own interests first. Curious; the broker has acted for Hambro Countrywide for as long as anyone can remember, so someone should have thought of it before now.

Panmure was chosen because the broker bought some shares for Hambro during last month's bid for John D Wood, the posh estate agents.

Ashen-faced

A CRICKET match with a difference at the Honourable Artillery Company ground on City Road today. The annual Financial Ashes will be fought between a team from the Securities Institute, members and employees, and teams of Australian and, rather more loosely, South African City folk. Loosely, because there are probably not 11 South African brokers and bankers in London who can hold a cricket bat, or if there are, they won't be at the HAC ground. So expect plenty of ringers. Last year's event was notable for the hospitalisation of both umpires.

MARTIN WALLER

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For 48p see Gavell (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	797.10	848.00	+10.60	2.73
General Inc	660.40	702.60	+8.80	2.23
UK Growth Acc	552.00	587.30	+7.10	2.17
UK Growth Inc	352.90	375.50	+4.50	2.17
Higher Inc Acc	571.73	603.00	+8.50	3.64
Higher Inc Inc	509.80	542.40	+5.00	3.64
Gilt/Fixd Int Acc	321.10	333.40	+0.20	5.44
Gilt/Fixd Int Inc	94.40	99.70	+0.09	5.44
Nth America	408.70	434.60	+5.30	
Europe	440.60	468.80	+6.20	
Intl Equity	170.30	117.40	+1.50	2.29
Intl Fixd Int Acc	134.00	142.60	+0.60	4.29
Intl Fixd Int Inc	88.42	94.07	+0.63	4.29
Global Opp	117.70	122.10	+1.30	
Balanced Acc	71.91	76.51	+0.66	1.96
Balanced Inc	66.46	70.71	+0.61	1.96
Japan Acc	43.80	46.60	+0.29	
Pac Basin Acc	399.59	425.10	+1.90	0.84

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	137.10	145.50	+1.00	6.31
High Inc Equity	210.50	225.10†	+3.70	4.31
Worldwide Bond	265.20	281.30		3.95
American Growth	488.40	519.30	+5.90	0.32
Asian Pacific	328.70	352.20	+0.10	0.28
Assets & Earnings	327.40	350.20	+4.40	2.67
Euro Capital Acc	334.90	361.20	+3.50	0.79
Extra Inc	43.63	45.63†	+0.11	8.43
General	304.90	324.40	+4.00	2.63
Global Opps	81.80	87.02	+1.09	0.46
Japan	102.50	108.60	+0.23	
Managed Inc	51.36	54.64†	+0.32	4.12
Micro Vest	190.60	203.90	+1.90	1.09
US Emerging Cos	202.30	216.40	+1.00	
Ethical	94.10	99.47†	+0.42	2.06
International	153.10	162.90	+1.50	0.53
Dividend 5 Growth	77.71	93.67	+1.04	4.06
Global Gth & Inc	76.97	82.20	-0.21	2.46
Latin America	94.00	100.00	+2.30	0.20
Capital Preserver	149.70	149.70		4.62

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 225 8520

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
R&P Uk Growth	106.23	113.03†	+1.60	2.05
Equity Income	150.80	160.50	+1.90	4.12
Extra Income	267.20	305.20	+2.50	5.76
Smaller Cos	103.80	110.40	+0.10	1.73
International	131.60	139.90	+2.20	1.26

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy
UK Small Cos	2349.00	2448.00

ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	75.48	78.45	+1.44	
Emerging Mkts	79.70	83.00†	-0.63	
European	163.23	174.95	+0.91	
Extra Income #	54.45	57.30†	-0.63	5.37
Far East Growth	139.56	131.70†	-0.42	0.64
Fixed Interest #	35.70	37.77	+0.03	8.39
Fixed Int Tst #	167.08	175.31†	+1.74	10.22
Japan	181.71	188.79	+0.93	
Latin American	78.91	83.79	-2.35	
Pacific	82.48	86.56	-0.23	0.14
Property	84.02	83.19†	-0.30	1.61
UK Emerging Cos	67.63	73.08†	-0.11	1.14
UK Growth	64.97	67.66	+0.98	1.45
Aber World Port #	90.33	95.06†	+0.67	2.53
Ethical	83.02	86.33†	-0.26	1.19
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.50	50.50†	+0.07	6.58

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5863

	Sell	Buy		Yld %
Wendle Property #	102.50	109.00		5.21

ALL CHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Family Income	100.24	106.50	+0.55	1.96
Income Builder Inc	90.52	96.30†	+1.00	3.64

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
PA dlg. 01793 610 366 Client dlg. 01793 614 514

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trust:				
Growth & Income	336.30	354.30	+1.80	2.80
Capital	570.00	617.80	+4.60	1.05
Balanced	971.40	1032.00†	+5.00	2.35
Accumulator	1899.00	2030.00	+12.00	1.54
Income Trusts:				
American Income	75.60	81.830	+0.30	1.98
High Income	548.40	585.90	+2.90	3.64
Equity Income	305.80	326.70†	+1.60	3.40
High Yield	329.80	352.30	+1.60	3.59
Gov't Securities	36.50	38.530	+0.31	5.39
International Trusts:				
Amer Spec Sits	264.60	281.90	+3.40	0.10
European Growth	68.29	73.940	+1.09	0.05
International	215.30	229.90†	+2.70	0.10
Japan	187.70	200.00†	+0.90	
Pacific	431.20	460.20†	-2.10	
Secs of America	711.50	756.90	+12.30	0.10
Worldwide Gold	60.73	63.00†	-0.56	0.02
Specialist Funds:				
Asset Value	760.20	812.70	-5.10	1.70
Cons & Gilt	50.21	53.00	+0.19	3.59
Smaller Cos	198.10	211.10	+0.30	1.08
Ind Smaller Cos	187.70	200.60	+0.70	0.77
Recovery	189.00	202.00	+0.90	1.19
Mid Wor Ex Gilts	146.30	156.80	+1.10	0.20
Quest Earnings	494.30	528.70	+3.10	0.92
Technology	267.30	285.60†	+3.70	
UK Special Sits	659.70	705.50	+3.60	1.52

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911

	Sell	Buy
Extra Out Fund	136.10	141.30
Foundtn Pref Prec	80.64	83.78

For B&I-Thornhill see Thornhill

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
America	403.60	434.70	-1.60	
Bond	313.80	330.20†	+0.30	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	109.20	116.20	-0.10	1.90
Cons & Gilt #	60.42	70.66	+0.35	5.44
Europe	355.00	377.70	+6.30	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	136.90	134.60	+0.30	0.31
Income Gath	338.10	412.90†	-1.20	4.19
Japan	313.60	354.60	-0.50	
Latin American	113.70	123.10†	+3.30	0.49
Pacific	121.80	129.60	-0.30	0.53
UK Smlr Cos	590.0	627.9	+0.16	1.29
Japan Fd	628.10	646.60	+1.50	
Emrg Mkt	225.10	239.90	+3.00	2.44

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy		Yld %
Bal & Growth	420.40	465.50		0.16
Capital Gain	150.20	165.20		2.53
Waste Upgr	255.60	270.50		0.01

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 522 4000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Funds:				
Gilt & Fixed Int	501.60	535.60	+7.50	1.64
European Ex Inc	97.35	101.00†	-0.20	5.70
Extra Inc	93.99	105.00	+1.50	2.21
500	434.00	524.00		1.99
General	374.60	405.50	-6.00	1.70
Pacific	270.00	278.00		
Income Funds:				
Fixed Int	263.93	297.00†	+3.30	1.67
Income Trusts:				
Euro Inc	123.20	130.50		6.12
Gilt Income #	123.10	133.00†	-1.30	5.34
Euro Income #	160.30	171.00	-2.00	4.16
Gilt & Fixed Int	61.5	62.35	+0.19	7.80
Income #	679.90	715.00†	+6.50	4.74
Income Portfol #	77.61	82.56	+0.19	2.61
Intl Income	73.62	93.61†	+1.34	1.16
Growth Trust - UK:				
Growth	170.80	181.70	+2.90	1.52
Fin & Prop	121.94	127.23	+2.61	1.61
Extra Income #	160.30	171.00	-2.00	4.16
Gilt & Fixed Int	61.5	62.35	+0.19	7.80
Income #	679.90	715.00†	+6.50	4.74
Income Portfol #	77.61	82.56	+0.19	2.61
Intl Income	73.62	93.61†	+1.34	1.16
Growth Trust - Intl:				
Growth	170.80	181.70	+2.90	1.52
Fin & Prop	121.94	127.23	+2.61	1.61
Extra Income #	160.30	171.00	-2.00	4.16
Gilt & Fixed Int	61.5	62.35	+0.19	7.80
Income #	679.90	715.00†	+6.50	4.74
Income Portfol #	77.61	82.56	+0.19	2.61
Intl Income	73.62	93.61†	+1.34	1.16
Growth Trust - Other

Shares lose some early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
469	407½	Allied Domecq†	454	+ 2	6.0	13.6
626	447½	Bulmer (HP)	452½		3.1	
75½	44	Burn Stewart	45		9.4	11.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie A†	937½	- 10	1.8	23.2
631	426½	Grand Met†	617	- 5	3.0	19.8
627	424	Guinness	591½	- 6½	3.4	16.9
380	321½	Highland Dist	328½		3.2	15.4
336	235	Matthew Clark	246½	+ 4	13.0	7.3
108½	52½	Minydee Wi	63½		6.1	
1978¼	1462½	SA Breweries	1831½	- 3½	2.0	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1178½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1065½	- 17½	2.8	
971	710	Abbey Nat	821½	- 15	4.0	14.5
855	572½	Alliance & Leic	800½	- 2½	3.4	14.7
525	398½	Allied Irish	517	+ 13½	3.5	14.7
453½	363½	Aus New Z	453½	+ 9½	4.2	
4159½	2875	Bank America	4143½	+ 165½		
445	291½	Bank Scotland	440½	+ 11	2.5	13.4
1337	978½	Barclays	1278½	+ 2½	3.1	12.9
742	517½	Bk of Ireland	722½	+ 9	2.8	
7890½	6006½	Citicorp	7643½	+ 143½		
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1578½	- 18½	2.8	
862½	559½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	768½	- 9½	0.6	
4321	2709½	Deutsche Bk	4225	+ 500	1.4	
1221½	759½	Espirito Santo	1218½	- 3½	2.9	
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	839½	- 5	0.5	
2215	1277½	HSBC	2104½	+ 40	2.4	18.2
2137	1241	HSBC HP	2022½	+ 28	2.5	17.5
783	714	Halifax	727½	- 1	3.5	21.7
610	483½	Irish Perm	585		2.8	
733½	424	Lloyds TSB	667	- 5½	2.5	21.6
888½	669½	Nat Aust Bk	854½	+ 3½	4.6	12.2
896½	663½	Nat West	862	- 3	4.2	12.9
663½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	651	+ 5½	3.7	14.0
1053½	641	Stand Chart	1001	+ 22	1.8	17.9
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
374½	315½	Westpac	357½	+ 5½	4.0	
373½	286½	Woolwich	287	- 2	3.4	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	717½	Bass†	839	+ 14½	3.8	15.7
68½	43½	Bri for the Edi	45		5.1	
205	142½	Burtonwood Brw†	156	+ 7½	4.5	14.0
156½	123	City Centre Rest	137½		2.5	21.2
744½	596	Compass Gp	615	+ 1	1.8	22.6
305	250	Eldridge P A†	288½		2.4	15.9
495	435	Fuller Sm A	440		2.8	15.3
586	422½	Greenalls Gp	455	- 4	3.4	11.3
770	642	Greene King†	762	+ 15½	2.7	
237½	164½	Grosvenor Inns	169½	- 1	4.5	16.4
285	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	263½	- 9	1.4	25.9
298½	261	Hardy Hanson	271½		5.1	12.1
2950	2700	Hall J	2762½		2.7	16.3
78	63½	Inn Business	67½		3.0	10.7
357	332	Macdonald	337½		2.6	14.5
315½	252	Marston Thmp†	275		3.6	9.5
615	512½	Morland	517½		3.1	13.3
266½	210	Old Eng Pub	254½		1.0	32.8
47½	26½	Paramount	30			
820½	527½	PizzaExpress	636½	+ 4	0.6	40.9
437½	337½	Ramsdens (H)†	372½	+ 2½	1.7	33.0
378½	262½	Regent Inns	276½	- 1	1.2	26.4
768½	627	Scot & New	730	+ 4	3.7	15.3
291	248½	Vaux Group	290½	+ 3	4.6	13.1
1332½	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1375	- 5	0.8	30.7
863	738½	Whitbread	937½	+ 1½	3.6	15.4
706½	582	Wolvrhmptn D	586		3.9	12.7
531	419½	Yates Bros†	521½	+ 1	1.0	27.9
702½	615	Young A	697½		2.7	27.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
32½	17½	AAF Inds	18½	+ 1		
205	170	Abbey	200		3.2	22.6
347½	237½	Allen	327½		2.9	19.6
166½	90½	Amec	164		3.0	
512	347½	Amey	416		2.7	18.6
656	485	Andrews Sykes	557½	- 2½	2.2	16.5
324½	222½	Ashtead	317	- 5½	1.5	
48½	29½	Avonside	43½		2.9	11.5
39½	34½	Bandt	31½		4.5	26.8
64½	43½	Barcomj	60½		2.7	18.6
291½	226	Barratt Dev	253	+ ½	4.3	14.1
210	160	Beazer	166	+ 1½	4.6	12.8
381½	299½	Bellway	339	- ½	3.1	15.1
[illegible]						

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	387½	Electrocomponts†	436½	+ 2½	2.2	24.6
236½	117½	Eurodis Elec	121½	- 1	5.4	
97½	76½	European Mb	92½		7.8	7.9
363	213	Evans Halshaw	227½		9.1	
53½	39½	Fife Indmx	39½		10.4	7.9
397½	318½	Finelist Grp	319		2.6	16.2
34½	25½	Gardiner	26½		4.6	9.6
79½	57½	Glenchewton	63	- ½	2.7	12.3
110	87½	Gowrings	103½	+ 1	3.6	23.5
15½	11	HR Owen	13½	½	6.0	12.4
103	20½	Hamlet	21½			2.0
267½	232½	Harris (Philip)†	242½		5.2	9.4
320½	284½	Headlam	303½		2.4	20.0
160	145	Holders Tech	160		5.1	14.8
240½	171½	ISA Intl	171½	- 1	2.1	13.9
308½	240½	Inchcape	287½	+ 1	4.6	17.6
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	64½		4.4	10.0
279	214½	Kwik-Fit	279	+ ½	2.5	20.0
393½	316½	Lex Service	392½		5.1	12.9
122	100	Lookers	107		9.6	7.5
9	5½	Meddlesex	7½		1.7	12.6
41½	10½	Midrazacsi	11		3.5	3.5
472	180	Norbain†	351		4.2	
166½	114½	Nortbrooke	130		1.3	7.8
352½	305½	Parkco	320	- ½	3.1	16.8
404½	342½	Pendragon	349	- 1½	3.5	16.1
223½	184½	Perry Gp	185		6.1	8.8
751	448	Premier Farnell	500	+ 18½	3.0	18.5
152½	124½	Quicks Group	132½		6.6	9.0
357	307½	REA†	350		1.4	43.1
2½	1½	Reaco	2			23.3
28	12½	Ronson	14½		2.2	
4	1½	Rees Gp	2			
109½	79½	Ryland	86½		5.8	15.6
38	34	SKP Indl	30½		6.4	14.0
92½	31½	Satarei	31½	- 3	4.8	
415½	284½	Time Products†	289½		5.2	11.1
337	228	UMECO†	326		2.1	21.2
80	59	United Oseas Gp	80	+ 2½		17.3
352½	280½	Vardy (Reg)	290½		3.4	13.1
685	498½	WF Elect	625	+ 3	3.1	
41	26½	Witchaw	27½	- ½	3.9	
172½	111½	Wyko	130½	- 5½	2.7	14.1
154½	119½	Young (H)	142		3.8	12.1

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	440	- 5	1.5	23.2
328	232½	Ascot Hldgs	239		2.7	39.9
917	787½	Broken Hill	787½	- 3½	2.8	19.6
289	180½	BTR	194½	+ ½	6.2	8.4
601½	462	BAT	539	- 2	6.1	11.3
60½	52	Brierley Inv	52½	+ ½	9.0	8.6
266	182	Cookson	214½	+ 8	5.0	13.4
329½	199½	Cosalt	301½		6.5	8.5
375½	255½	DCC	374	+ 3	2.3	13.9
317½	242½	Gallaher	268	+ 9½	9.0	10.2
141	115½	Grampian Hdgs	129	- ½	5.9	11.2
140½	101½	Hanson Cntl	113		10.0	10.7
531	423½	Hutch Whamp	531	+ 15½	1.8	22.7
438½	362	Imperial Tob	371½	- 3½	6.7	7.4
505½	331	Jardine Math	399½	- 8½	3.7	
158½	121	Lonrho	124		4.9	12.7
175½	141½	McLeod Russel†	143		6.0	11.4
457½	388½	Powell Duffryn†	395½		7.9	11.2
197½	153½	Stavelcy†	179½	- 8½	6.4	15.3
602½	448½	Swire Pacific	516½	+ 3½	2.6	
397½	327½	TT Group	341	+ 1	2.8	15.0
306½	252½	Tomkins	304	- 1	4.8	13.4
210	165	Undarc†	205		7.9	10.6
498	405	Wardle Storeys	405		6.0	15.1
387½	291½	Wassall	293½	+ ½	2.6	18.0
166½	123½	Whitecroft†	123½		5.1	17.9
345½	294½	Williams	330½	+ ½	5.7	14.0

ELECTRICITY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
168	125½	Br Energy P/P†	165	+ 1	6.5	51.1
665	463½	Energy Group	649	- 1	4.0	11.8
272	192	National Grid†	261½	+ 6½	5.3	10.8
586½	460½	National Power†	568½	+ 8½	5.5	11.0
441½	352½	Nthn Ireland	440½	+ 4	6.1	19.4
797½	566½	PowerGen†	780½	- 6½	4.0	12.6
460½	319½	Hydro-Elect	460	+ 4	4.9	10.7
474½	331½	Scottish Power	448½	+ 4½	5.3	11.4
472½	373½	Southern Elect	461	+ 1	5.8	12.6

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	106½	Sci Hundred†	108		5.8	2.5
832½	708½	Smiths Ind	796½	+ 18	2.8	18.4
737½	595	Spirax-Sarco	610	+ 1	3.0	16.1
303½	239½	Sterling Indt	240½	+ ½	5.2	11.7
594½	450	TI	515	+ 9	3.5	17.1
116½	101½	Tinsley (E)	109½		7.2	
120½	92½	TransTec	95		3.1	13.5
206½	144½	Triplex Lloyd†	155½	- 1½	5.8	11.8
222½	150½	Unicorn Intl	222½		3.5	
77½	48½	Utd Inds	51½		5.8	14.9
273½	169½	Vickers	180½	+ ½	5.0	10.8
10½	8½	Villiers Grp	10			
712½	513	Vitec	517½	+ 1	2.9	9.4
952	745	Vosper Thornyt	747		4.4	12.1
350	213½	Wagon Ind	221½		6.9	11.0
267½	203½	Weir	233½	+ 4	4.3	13.4
259½	212½	Wellington Hdg	212½		4.8	12.5
33	23	Wellman	29		8.4	8.7
61½	45½	Wescol	53½	- 1	2.6	17.8
683	525	Whatman	653	- 1	2.5	19.7
65½	30½	Widney	37½	+ 5	12.0	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
140	98	Adwest	99		9.8	13.9
197	180	Airflow Stream	180		5.6	11.4
757	580	Avon Rubber†	582	- 3	4.3	12.1
285	227½	Bostrom	275		3.2	11.4
107½	96	Brtax	99		4.4	13.6
762	657½	First Tech	744		1.8	
1064½	907	GKN	1000½	+ 10½	3.3	
3653½	3237½	General Mtr	3468½	+ 87½	3.4	
583½	416½	Henlys	441½	- 4½	4.2	10.4
2051	1540½	Honda Motor	1801½	+ 6	0.4	
413½	312½	Lard	346½	+ 2½	4.7	9.9
228	180	LucasVarity	186½	+ 2½	3.6	18.8
165½	131	Mayflower	149		1.9	28.1
172½	127½	Saltone	142½		5.8	
179	123	T & N	146½		5.1	
85½	32½	Tead	37½			
339½	238½	Tomm Hldgst	258½		4.3	12.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	454	AB Food	571½	+ 13	2.1	18.8
311½	271½	Acatos & Hutch	296	- 1	4.4	24.9
48½	34	Albert Fisher	42½	- ½	11.0	10.1
320	275	Banks (S C)	303		4.6	11.5
414	322	Barr (AG)†	403½		3.3	14.4
43	30	Bensons Crsp	34½		3.6	8.7
402	244	Booker	270½	+ 6	11.0	79.3
43	30½	Borthwick†	43	+ ½	3.8	27.4
220	90	CPL Aromas†	100	+ 7½	6.0	26.7
606½	464	Cadbury-Schw	589½	+ 8	3.6	16.1
335	280	Carrs Milling	286		4.8	9.4
81½	57½	Cavaghan	58½		8.3	10.0
267½	203½	Carpenter†	248½		5.1	12.7
252½	195½	Dairy Crest Group	248½		5.0	11.1
363½	217½	Dalgety	335	+ 1½	11.7	20.5
52½	35½	Daniels SW	37½		0.8	30.2
391½	263½	Devro	391	+ 8	2.7	26.3
129½	79½	Finlay (James)	107		4.3	16.0
308	250	Geest	307½	+ 8½	3.4	24.7
26	19½	Global	21½		3.7	11.6
380	290	Greencore†	290	- 3	2.9	12.6
128½	99½	Harlewood Fd†	127½		6.8	9.9
200½	159	Hillsdown	178½	+ 2	7.1	11.3
77½	40½	JLI Group	41½		14.9	
420	368	Linton Park	398½		5.0	10.1
142	105	Matthews (B)	105	- 1	4.9	8.3
212½	177½	Nichols (V)	203½		3.4	12.2
226	188½	Northern Foods	216½	+ 2½	5.4	13.6
22½	13	Nthmbn Fr	17		1.1	9.5
104½	82½	Paramount Foods	89		7.0	10.3
105	62	Pacoers	75			13.3
88½	68½	Perkins Food	84½	+ ½	6.7	10.0
93½	47½	Plant & Gent	86½		2.5	
167½	97½	Sentry Farm	105	+ 7½	6.1	7.4
41½	25½	Sims Food	35½			
485	417½	Tate & Lyle	429	+ ½	5.0	13.5
191½	123½	Treast	146½		4.9	42.0
539	414	Unigate†	534	+ 2½	4.7	13.5
1797½	1351	Unilever	1729	+ 24	2.3	21.5
£134½	9943½	Unilever (NV)	£129½	+ 250	1.6	17.3
253½	199	Utd Biscuits	215	+ 6½	5.8	14.6
36½	29½	WT Foods†	32		5.9	13.9
15½	8½	Yorkshire Food	9½		11.9	

HEALTHCARE

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1850	1100	Amersham†	1712½	+ 57½	1.6	25.8
148	116½	Assoc Nursg	135		3.5	16.4
627½	472½	Bespak†	577½		2.7	
1432½	820	Biocompat Intl	997½	- 8½		
140	104	Care First	107½		4.0	
129½	96	Care UK	118		1.1	15.9
[illegible]						

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
32½	24	Edinburgh Inca	31½	+ ½		
402	343½	Edinburgh IT	396½	+ 2½	3.4	31.6
132	102½	Edin Japan	126			
426	312	Edin US Tr	423	+ 8	1.7	72.4
502	420½	Electra Inv	458½		3.5	42.9
276	86½	English Nat	264	+ 2½	0.2	
159	144½	Eng & Scot	156½	+ 2	2.4	40.7
406½	372	European Asset	393½	+ 1½	1.2	
[illegible]						

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3860	2150	Murray S/C Uts	3800		3.9	
485½	419	Murray Small	465½	+ 2½	1.6	
411½	387	Murray Vent	410½		4.5	23.0
5½	5½	Newmarket	5½			
447½	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	436½	+ 3½	1.1	
250	156½	O'seas Wts	247	- ½		
126	97½	Pacific Assets	100½	+ ½	0.5	
120½	98	Perp Inc Gth	118½	+ 1	3.8	
56	41	Perpetual Jap	50½	+ ½		
366½	294½	Perpt UK Sm Co	356½		4.1	36.4
£152½	£128½	Personal Assets	£152		1.9	50.0
134½	113½	Prolific Inc	129½	+ ½	4.7	28.4
266	229	RIT Cap Ptn	264½	+ ½	0.9	78.1
569½	475½	Robeco	521½	- 5½	2.0	
577½	497	Rolinco†	520	- 6	1.0	
[illegible]						

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	75½	ABI Leis	78		8.2	7.6
1243½	797	Airtours	1235	+ 16½	1.7	24.2
59½	30½	Ald Leis	32		3.2	18.5
59½	40½	Arcadian	41½		3.6	18.9
16½	9½	Arena Leis	14½			
167½	137½	BC Group	137½		4.5	
132½	95	Baldwin	115		4.3	14.4
347	211½	Barr & Wall	326½		4.6	18.4
200½	79½	Bluebird Toys	90	- 2½	12.5	6.2
917½	747½	Boozey Hwks	870		1.3	31.9
[illegible]						

MEDIA

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
803½	502½	Flextech	666	- 2½		
232½	209½	GGT Group	210		3.8	
232½	167½	GWR Gp†	170½	- ½	2.0	27.9
387½	300½	Gearhouse Group	348½		2.2	17.4
34½	24½	Goodhead	33	- ½	0.9	30.1
319½	243½	Grampian	315½		2.8	21.7
345	254	HIT Enter	327½		0.2	48.6
415	271½	HTV Group	412½		1.3	49.6
287½	207½	Haynes Pub	225		6.0	10.3
[illegible]						

MINING

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7000	3375	Ang Am Coal	3375	- 16½	3.9	
3993½	3168½	Ang Am	3390½	+ 18½	2.7	
4940½	3278½	Ang Am Gold	3278½	- 53½	5.9	
20½	16½	Anglo Pac Res	20	+ ½		
49½	32½	Arcon Intl	45½	+ 1½		
953½	609½	Ashanti	659½	+ 12½	2.7	
107	79	Ashton	81	+ 1½	7.0	
[illegible]						

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
64½	53	Rutland Tst	57½		3.0	12.8
153½	98½	SEC Group	111	- ½	5.6	7.8
445	302	S & U	340		6.6	8.6
1848½	1500	Schroders	1800	+ 32½	1.4	19.6
1630	1310	Schroders N/V	1597½	+ 30	1.6	17.4
630	522½	Secure Tst	585		4.3	13.2
182½	127½	Singer & Fried	143½	- 1	4.1	12.4
46½	29½	Towry Law	39½			
4	2½	Trio Hldgs	3½			
106½	71	Union	75	1	2.5	
397½	310	Waitst	367½		4.8	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
285	152½	Brit Biotech	175½	- 2½		
1115	645	Cantab Pharms	646	- 80		
873	247½	Celltech	281½	+ 1½		
443½	226½	Chiroscience	231	+ 4½		
283½	160	Cortecs	175	+ 7½		
1418½	685½	Glaxo Well	1351	- 11½	3.1	27.9
245	148½	ML Laboratories	152½			28.3
330½	210	Medeva	212½	+ ½	2.8	39.4
403	238½	Peptide Thera	305			
202½	195½	Powderjet	197½	- 2		
92	24½	Proteus Intl	45½	- 1½		
737½	272½	Scotia	289	+ 7½		
346	216	Shire Pharms	242	+ ½		
95	64½	SkyePharma	71½	- 1½		
1262½	768½	SmithKline	1214	- 5½	1.7	30.2
392	209½	Therp And Inc	311			
707½	405	Vanguard	415	2½		
435	210	Xenova	261			
2291	1585½	Zeneca	2063	- 22	2.1	29.2

PRINTING & PAPER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	113	AG Holdings	113½		6.6	9.7
782	630	API	632½		2.3	19.2
65	47½	App Holo	56½			
202	151	Arlo Wiggins	166½	+ 2	5.6	18.5
24	17½	Bath Press	22½		2.8	9.9
450½	373½	Bemrose	374	- ½	5.0	9.6
229½	130	Blagden	131		2.4	9.1
3100	2178½	Bowater Inc	3062½	+ 100		
[illegible]						

PROPERTY

[illegible]

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
200½	121	MFI	157½	- 1		
601½	458½	Marks Spencer†	[illegible]			
[illegible]						

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
507½	391½	BT	450	+ 7	5.3	12.3
636	456	Cable Wireless†	611	- 2½	3.3	22.5
338½	258½	Cable&Wire Comm	316½			
347½	270	Colt Telecom	346½	+ 6		
247½	167½	Euro Telecom†	225	3	1.4	
200	136½	General Cable	146	- 5		
227	194	Orange	209½	+ ½		
336	252½	Securicor	252½	- 1	0.4	37.6
134½	61½	TeleWest	[illegible]			
317	240	Vodafone†	295½		2.0	26.9

TEXTILES & APPAREL

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
252	169½	Air London	211		3.9	12.7
462½	341	Ail Nippon Air	387½	+ 2½	0.4	
319½	247	Assoc Br Ports	252½	+ 3	5.8	13.7
145	134	Avis Europe	141½	+ ½	2.9	16.1
614	477	BAA†	602½	+ 2½	2.6	18.6
763½	583	Br Airways†	635	- 7	3.0	11.2
[illegible]						

RETAILERS, FOOD

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
149	105½	ASDA Group	146		2.7	14.9
552	415	Brake Bros	498½		2.6	16.2
47	38½	Budgen	44	+ ½	4.1	
27½	14½	Cullens	27		3.3	
50	41½	Dairy Farm Intl	48½	+ ½	7.4	7.5
493	378	Farepak†	459		2.7	
62½	45½	Fitzwilton†	47½		6.1	13.1
117½	80	Fyffes†	81		2.7	10.2
1800	1335	Greggs	1775		2.3	18.4
109½	76½	Iceland Group	92	+ 1	7.3	7.0
337½	265	Kwik Save	325	+ 4½	7.7	11.5
176½	144	Morrison (W)	175½	+ ½	1.2	16.0
67½	47	Park Foods	48½	- 3	8.0	
7½	5½	Regina Hlth	5½			
430	326½	Safeway†	397½	+ 4	4.4	14.5
438½	307	Sainsbury J†	432½	+ 3½	3.6	18.5
195½	161½	Somerfield	193	+ 3	6.8	7.0
435½	327	Tesco	427	+ 5½	3.0	17.8
245½	189½	Thorntons	207	+ 2½	3.3	
475	335½	Watson& Philip†	438½		5.1	10.6

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

WATER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
805	577½	Anglian†	802½	+ 21	[illegible]	
275	205	East Surrey†	275		[illegible]	
881½	740	Hyder†	851½		[illegible]	
1111½	101½	Hyder Cnv Prf†	100½		[illegible]	
640	532½	Mid Kent Hdgs†	585		[illegible]	
903½	663	Severn Trent†	902		[illegible]	
2930	2765	South Staff	2920		[illegible]	
827½	566½	Sthn West†	813½		[illegible]	
818½	593½	Thames†	809		[illegible]	
789	605½	Utd Utilities†	711½		[illegible]	
501	344½	Wessex†	485		[illegible]	
465½	335	Yorkshire†	457		[illegible]	

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
[illegible]						
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
[illegible]						
LONGS (over 15 years)						
[illegible]						
UNDATED						
50⅝	43⅝	War Ln 3½%	50⅞	+ ⅞	6.91	
35⅞	30⅞	Tresa 2½%	35⅞	+ ½	7.06	
55⅝	49⅝	Consols 4%	55⅝	+ ⅝	7.22	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
[illegible]						

We know how to handle liquid assets.

Fancy downing your cash handling fees? Use Girobank. We already serve thousands of pubs, clubs and restaurants. Ring 0800 22 22 55. Please quote ref: NP/TT/EK/07/97

Girobank

Moving money for business

Girobank plc. Registered in England 1/4 Regd Office 4 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ. A member of the Alliance & Leicester Group

Source: FT Information

هكذا من الأصل

ACCOUNTANCY

Capital idea propels Big Six

Peter Gratton explains the surge in sponsorship by leading firms

THE progress of the leading accountancy firms in expanding the services offered by their corporate finance arms has raised some eyebrows in recent years. The latest area in which they have started to compete is that of acting as sponsor to companies seeking a listing. Why have they moved into this area and will it last?

Sponsorship work is a natural progression for the corporate finance arms of the leading accountancy firms. As the *Acquisitions Monthly* league tables show, the leading accountancy practices have developed their corporate finance skills to the point where they now dominate the market for professional advice on unquoted merger and acquisition transactions. Their attention has turned over recent years to lead advisory work in the quoted arena, in respect of both takeovers and listings. But why accountants? And why now?

In December 1993 the Stock Exchange amended its rules to allow accountancy firms to become sponsors to companies seeking a listing and the necessary changes to the rules for accountants soon followed. This coincided with a general change in the corporate finance market for smaller companies when some of the larger merchant banks were focusing away from the smaller end of the market and many companies were losing their sense of loyalty to their traditional adviser, being open to advice from others. The advent of the Alternative Investment Market and the new role of nominated adviser (Nomad) has also enabled accountancy firms to establish a presence in this new market for capital raising. Their perceived quality compared with some of the smaller less well-known traditional houses has also been of significant benefit.

But a key element of the transition has been the change in the skills mix of the Big Six corporate finance arms. Over the past few years these firms have been recruiting bankers, lawyers and brokers, bringing together people with experience across the full spectrum of corporate finance work. Combining this with the existing skill base has meant that the corporate finance teams in the Big Six now have the experience and expertise to execute many of the transactions previously reserved for traditional lead advisers.

Some argue that without distribution facilities the accountants cannot be effective as sponsors. I believe that, to the contrary, it is just this separation of the sponsorship advice from the raising of capital that makes the accountants attractive, being able to give advice that can be seen to be genuinely independent of any underwriting commissions.

Peter Gratton says the independence of firms is a plus

Moreover accountants bring to the transaction a wide range of skills under one roof, such as accounting and tax advice as well as the corporate finance advice. All of these functions, for example, were essential when Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance advised on the demerger and acted as sponsors for the flotation of Clubhaus from Ex-Lands, the quoted group, two years ago.

The accountants are making significant progress in this area, but slowly. One of the reasons for this slower pace has been their caution: no Big Six firm is prepared to put at risk the reputation of its name, and so all are being careful about the clients they are prepared to sponsor.

But accountants will be driving this market forward. We see sponsorship work as a valuable additional service to offer our existing client base, both in the UK and for our international network. So far, it is a small but accelerating revenue stream for us. In March alone Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance acted as sponsor to two main market listings and Nomad to an AIM float with a combined market capital of some £100 million. In addition we are acting for an increasing number of quoted clients as sponsor when they embark on substantial acquisitions or disposals, and as their lead financial adviser in public company takeovers.

More significant still is the investment that is being put into building up this area. In my view the Big Six will become an established force in this market within the next few years, offering a service that will be in demand particularly with those companies that, by virtue of their size, have found themselves underserved by their traditional advisers.

Peter Gratton is a Partner at Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance, part of the UK practice of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International (DTTI).

Risk of pain from cut-price reports

WE MAY be seeing the end of accountants' traditional "mission to explain" a company's results through its annual report and accounts. News that several building societies are taking the route towards summary financial statements is but one sign of this.

It is a fundamental change. Accountants have never before admitted that the language of financial reporting is foreign to those with whom they are trying to communicate. It has always been a basic tenet that a two-way process was in progress. Accountants try to make things more accessible and understandable, the general public gradually expands its knowledge of financial reporting, and eventually the two would meet in the middle. The average intelligent person would have enough of a grasp to feel that a set of good accounts was not a mystery. And the average accountant would be capable of explaining matters in a jargon-free way.

The only alternative to these assumptions is that business and finance is arcane and that only insiders can hope to understand it. That is unacceptable in a pluralist society that tries to be just. It is no surprise that the two efforts in recent years to roll back obfuscation and reveal clarity have met with huge popular acclaim.

Both the work of Sir David Tweedie at the Accounting Standards Board and the books of Terry Smith, the analyst, have had big success. The need to make financial reporting simpler and clearer is growing, rather than diminishing, as you would expect in a more prosperous, better-educated society.

So why is the corporate mood one of giving shareholders summaries rather than the full accounts? The simple answer is cost. It is all very well being a company with a wide shareholder base, but the cost of a set of accounts, in terms of artwork, design, photography and, above all, postage, is high.

Summary financial statements are also more attractive to shareholders. They are much shorter, much smaller, and, with attractive graphics, appear more inviting.

So why should the financial reporting profession be wary? The first problem is that companies, when they are extolling the virtue of summary financial statements, start also to explain how these documents can become something more of a corporate brochure. Released from the responsibilities of statutory accounts, companies can wax more lyrical about what fine organisations they are.

This process can only lead financial reporting back to the bad old days when a smiling chairman would lay on the charm and soft soap in the annual report while the accounts at the back carried a message of impending doom. Summary financial statements do tend to be, as marketing people say, "upbeat".

Companies also argue that in these days of a move towards electronic "real-time" reporting, the thick, paper document is outdated. But that argument applies only to sophisticated investors. The people identified in times of scandal as those who have lost their pensions are not people who scan corporate figures online. One purpose of financial reporting is to protect the vulnerable, who tend not to be technologically, or financially, sophisticated.

The third argument is that accounts are now so overloaded with additional material as a result of the Cadbury code on corporate governance that a limit has been reached in terms of just how much information anyone can cope with. This argument is nonsense. Certainly, there is much more information in accounts as a result, but it is the first increase in useful information for years.

ROBERT BRUCE

Ask the average sceptical shareholder or user of accounts whether they want *more information* on the directors, their pay and how they have done their duties or more information on depreciation and you know what the answer will be.

The other argument is that the information, particularly on directors' remuneration and pension provision, is so complex that it is not worth printing. But that is a question to ask actuaries, or the directors. It could all be simpler if directors wished it so.

The final argument, however, is the one that people in the financial reporting world really need to remember. Whenever there has been scandal over a corporate collapse, the argument has centred on the report and accounts. It was quite possible for people to say of Polly Peck, for example, that if shareholders had read and understood Note 28 they would have been wary about the company's financial health. Under a regime of summary financial statements, directors would have to explain why they never sent out the detailed information in the first place.

That could be more painful to explain than the figures themselves.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mitchell fights on

PITY poor old Austin Mitchell. For all those years in opposition the indefatigable MP gave the accountancy profession hell with the clear message that once in Government everything would change. But it hasn't. A few weeks ago Mitchell called an adjournment debate on the regulation of the profession, only to find the minister responsible unresponsive to his invective. Last week it happened again. This time it was the regulation of insolvency practitioners. Once again Mitchell inveighed against "the Mafia regulating the Mafia" and this time extended the description to cover the DTI working party considering the issue. This did not amuse Nigel Griffiths, the Minister concerned. "To call its work a sham is unfair, unworthy and untrue," he said. "We have in Britain one of the best ways of regulating the insolvency profession." Mitchell is finding being in power a bit of a trial.

On course

THE English ICA, ever keen to improve its image, if not its reputation, has appointed another set of public relations advisers. This time Ludgate Communications is to have a go at the £500,000 account. In particular, it will have to think up a successor to the institute's poster campaign, which aimed to distinguish its members from all the other UK accounting bodies.

Rumours in Moorgate Place suggest the new slogan will be a simple one. Something like: "We're more chartered than them".

Spot rates

THE next recession cannot be too far away. Accountancy recruitment agencies are announcing record and rising salaries for accountants. Some of it could be self-fulfilling. Hays Accountancy Personnel announce today that 82 per cent of accountants who resign their job are being offered a pay rise on the spot. No wonder the graphs move ever upwards.

ROBERT BRUCE

Habeas corpus order is criminal

Cuoghi v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment July 15]

An order relating to the obtaining of evidence for the purposes of a habeas corpus application in extradition proceedings was a criminal cause or matter within the meaning of section 18(1)(a) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. Accordingly, the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction to entertain an appeal against such an order.

The Court of Appeal so held, determining as a preliminary issue that it had no jurisdiction to entertain an appeal by Sergio Cuoghi from Mr Justice Carnwath who had set aside an order of Mr Justice Forbes made on Mr Cuoghi's application for the issue of letters of request under section 3 of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 for evidence in support of his application for habeas corpus in reliance on section 11(3)(c) of the Extradition Act 1989.

The Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate had committed Mr Cuoghi in custody under the 1989 Act on a request by the Swiss Government for his extradition to Switzerland to face charges of fraud against Credit Suisse Fides Trust SA.

Section 11 of the 1989 Act provides: "(3) The court shall order the applicant's discharge if it appears to the court in relation to the offence . . . in respect of which the applicant's return is sought, that . . . (c) because the accusation against him is not made in good faith in the interests of justice, it would, having regard to all the circumstances, be unjust or oppressive to return him."

Mr Clive Nicholls, QC and Mr James Lewis for Mr Cuoghi; Mr Paul Garlick, QC, for the Swiss Government; Mr James Turner for the Home Secretary.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the wording of section 18(1)(a) of the 1981 Act that "no appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeal from any judgment of the High Court in any criminal cause or matter" and said that the question whether the Civil Division had jurisdiction to entertain Mr Cuoghi's appeal depended on the answer to three questions:

1 Did extradition proceedings fall within the statutory expression "criminal cause or matter"?

The answer was unquestionably "Yes". If there were any doubt about that, it was resolved by *In re Levin* ([1997] 3 WLR 117).

2 Did an application for habeas corpus made in extradition proceedings fall within the statutory expression?

The answer was "Yes". In reaching that conclusion his Lordship relied on a long line of authority and in particular on *Ex parte Alice Woodhall* ((1888) 20 QBD 832, 835-838). In that case the Court of Appeal had rejected the argument that a habeas corpus application, made following the applicant's committal in extradition proceedings, was not a criminal cause or matter but was collateral, not necessarily having reference to any criminal proceeding and that the primary object of such an application was to secure that the person detaining the applicant should produce him.

His Lordship also referred to authority which followed and approved that case, in particular *Amand v Home Secretary and Minister of Defence of Royal Netherlands Government* ([1943] AC 147, 156 and 162).

He rejected Mr Nicholls' argument that an application under section 11(3), whether advanced as a habeas corpus application or not, was a special free-standing procedure provided by statute, separate and distinct from the Swiss criminal proceedings which founded the application to extradite.

Accepting Mr Garlick's submission, his Lordship concluded that Part III of the 1989 Act, comprising sections 7 to 17, set out a comprehensive code to govern extradition in present circumstances. Section 11(3) formed part of a comprehensive provision for what was accepted as being a criminal proceeding.

It was artificial to fillet out section 11(3) from that coherent series of provisions and attribute to it a nature and character different from the process of which it formed part.

3 Did an order relating to obtaining evidence for purposes of a habeas corpus application in extradition proceedings fall within the statutory expression?

The answer was again "Yes" for the following reasons:

(a) It was a clear principle to be derived from the authorities that if the main substantive proceedings in question were criminal, incidental or ancillary proceedings thereto were similarly to be treated as criminal: hence the rule that habeas corpus applications incidental or ancillary to extradition proceedings were regarded as criminal because extradition proceedings were so regarded.

His Lordship stressed that in using the words "incidental or ancillary" he was not intending to propound any new and different test but was expressing the gist of what he understood the authoritative test or tests to be.

(b) Orders relating to the production of evidence for foreign criminal proceedings were themselves to be treated as criminal: see *Bonalumi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* ([1985] QB 675).

It would be anomalous if an order relating to the production of evidence for the purposes of English proceedings regarded as criminal were not itself to be regarded as criminal.

(c) An affirmative answer was fortified by consideration of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Cm 1928) which the 1990 Act enabled the United Kingdom to ratify.

It was that procedure which Mr Cuoghi through the medium of the 1990 Act was seeking to invoke. It was plain that the procedure existed to provide for international co-operation between states party to the Convention in the prosecution of crime. It had no civil purpose. Thus the context of the present proceedings was criminal and the context lent its colour to the section 11(3) application as to other parts of the proceedings.

(d) To rely on section 3 of the 1990 Act Mr Cuoghi was compelled to assert that the conditions in section 3(1)(a) and (b) were fulfilled, namely the existence of an offence and of proceedings or investigations in connection with it. That demonstrated the closeness of the connection between the section 3 application and the criminal proceedings which the Swiss government were seeking to extradite him to face.

The questions posed by Mr Turner were pertinent to consider: What was the purpose of the application? Was it a step in the process of bringing a defendant to trial? Could it affect the conduct of the trial?

In the light of those questions and the authorities the third question should be answered affirmatively. From that it followed that the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction to entertain the appeal, being an appeal from a judgment of the High Court in a criminal cause or matter.

Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Saville agreed.

Solicitors: Judge Sykes Frixou; CPS, HQ; Treasury Solicitor.

Appropriation outwith jurisdiction

Regina v Ngan

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment July 11]

A person who, knowing that money had been mistakenly paid into her bank account in England, signed blank cheques on that account and sent them to her sister in Scotland, did not in so doing commit an act of appropriation within the jurisdiction.

She was, however, guilty of an offence against English law when one of the cheques which necessarily drew upon the mistaken credit balance was brought back to England and presented for payment there. The act of theft was the presentation of the cheque.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when allowing in part the appeal of Sui Soi Ngan against her conviction by a majority on December 19, 1996 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Laurie and a jury) of three counts of theft.

Conviction on two of the counts, relating to cheques which were presented in Scotland, were quashed. Her appeal against conviction on the third count, which related to a cheque presented for payment in England, was dismissed. Her appeal against a sentence of two years detention in a young offender institution was allowed and a sentence of 15 months was substituted.

Section 3 of the Theft Act 1968 provides: "(1) Any assumption by a person of the rights of an owner amounts to an appropriation, and this includes, where he has come by the property (innocently or not) without stealing it, any later assumption of a right to it by keeping or dealing with it as owner."

Ms Lauren Soertsz, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Peter Gray for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the outcome of the appeal depended upon whether or not, as an ingredient of the thefts, the appellant had committed an act of appropriation within the jurisdiction.

As a condition of her employment she opened an account on August 11, 1995 with a London branch of Barclays Bank. The account number allocated to her had previously been that of a debt collection agency.

Several payments intended for the agency were paid into the account by mistake, amounting to a total of £77,767.25p. Payments were also made for the credit of the account from the appellant's employers and small withdrawals were made from time to time not exceeding the latter credit balance.

Between September 25 and October 9, 1995 cheques were presented for payment in the respective sums of £29,000, £16,000 and £10,000. They were paid because the mistake was not discovered until November 8, 1995.

The appellant when interviewed said that she had signed the blank cheques and sent them to her sister in Glasgow, who had known that she had received the extra money. Two cheques had been presented for payment in Glasgow and the third in Peterborough.

The trial judge rejected a submission of no case to answer made on the ground that no offence had been committed within the jurisdiction. He viewed the thefts as a joint enterprise between the appellant and her sister and regarded the appropriation as having taken place in this country because the account, the chose in action and the paying bank were all situated in England. However, his reason for that conclusion was wrong: see *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Osman* ([1990] 1 WLR 277).

On each of the three counts the appellant was charged with stealing a chose in action, namely a credit balance belonging to the debt collecting agency. Since it could not be disputed that the appellant had acted dishonestly, it was common ground that she was guilty of theft if the offence had been committed within the jurisdiction.

The question therefore was a simple one: was there any act within the jurisdiction which amounted to an assumption by the appellant of the rights of the owner?

Applying the principle set out in *Osman* (at p294) to the present case, the act of theft was the presentation of the cheque. Until then no right as against the bank had been exercised.

All that had occurred beforehand, including the signing of the cheques, had been preparatory acts. She who supplied the signed, blank cheques, which she knew were to be used to steal from the debt collecting agency, was an aider and abettor of the thefts, even though she was in England when the cheques were presented in Scotland.

As such, she would be liable to be convicted as a principal in relation to a substantive offence committed in Scotland. Viewed as a joint enterprise, that was where it was effectuated. It would not be enough to give the English court jurisdiction that her part in the theft was carried out in England: compare *R v Tomsett* ([1985] Crim LR 369).

When the appellant sent the cheques in blank to her sister, she intended to appropriate such sums as her sister proved to insert into any of the cheques that she used. The appropriation was inchoate.

In their Lordships' judgment, no right was assumed to the part of the appellant's credit balance that was not hers until a cheque was presented for payment in a sum which necessarily drew upon the mistaken credit balance. That represented an assertion of a right adverse to the debt collecting agency to have the cheque met by the bank.

The result was that on the two occasions that a cheque was presented in Scotland no offence was committed within the jurisdiction, but an offence was committed when the third cheque was presented in Peterborough.

When section 2(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1993 came into force it would render irrelevant where any act occurred proof of which was required for conviction of theft. Meanwhile the appellant was acquitted on counts 1 and 2 of the indictment and her appeal dismissed in relation to count 3.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Southwark.

Discrimination claim fails

Tattari v Private Patients Plan

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Roch and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment July 8]

Private Patients Plan, the provider of medical and health care insurance cover, was not, within the meaning of section 12 of the Race Relations Act 1976, an authority or body which could confer an authorisation or qualification which was needed for, or facilitated engagement in a particular profession or trade.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Dr Chrisalleni Tattari from a dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal on May 3, 1996, of her appeal from the dismissal by an industrial tribunal, sitting at Ashford, on August 15, 1990, of her complaint that PPP had discriminated against her on the ground of race contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the 1976 Act.

Mr Christopher Jeans, QC, for Dr Tattari. Mr Nicholas Green for PPP.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that Dr Tattari, a registered medical practitioner, was a British citizen but was Greek by birth. After qualifying as a doctor at Athens University she came to the United Kingdom and in 1979 was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. She was granted an EEC specialist certificate in plastic and reconstructive surgery by Athens University in 1986 and since 1988 had been in private practice in London.

The General Medical Council maintained a specialist list in accordance with article 6 of the Medical Qualifications (EEC Recognition) Order (SI 1977 No 827). Dr Tattari's name was added to that list in 1993 and she was thus recognised by the General Medical Council as having the right to practise plastic surgery in the United Kingdom.

Dr Tattari asked to be added to PPP's list of specialists in December 1994. In March 1995 she was informed that PPP could not grant her specialist recognition according to its rules which required her to hold or have held a substantive NHS consultant post or to hold a certificate of higher specialist training given by the higher specialist training committee of the Royal College of Surgeons. PPP did not recognise any EEC certificate of higher specialist training for the purposes of its rules.

His Lordship said that PPP was not an authority or body within the meaning of section 12 of the 1976 Act. He considered that the section had to be read as a whole and not construed piecemeal. The kind of bodies referred to were those similar to authorities which were empowered to grant qualifications or recognition for the purpose of practising a profession, calling, trade or activity.

Thus he considered that section 12, referring as it did to an authority or body which conferred recognition or approval referred to a body which had the power or authority to confer on a person a professional qualification or other approval needed to enable him to practise a profession, exercise a calling or take part in some other activity.

It did not refer to a body which was not authorised to or empowered to confer such qualification but which stipulated that for the purpose of its commercial agreements, a particular qualification was required.

Lord Justice Roch and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Mr C. G. Hughes; Lawrence Graham.

Benefits recoverable as special damages

Neal v Bingle

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment July 22]

Where by virtue of section 82 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 general damages for personal injury were reduced or extinguished by repayment of social security benefits received by the plaintiff in consequence of his injury, the plaintiff was entitled to recover as special damages the loss of non-recoupable benefits which he was receiving before the accident and would have continued to receive but for the injury.

Section 81(5) of the 1992 Act did not prevent the court from considering recovery of such sums.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing John Albert Neal's appeal from the order of Judge Hague, QC, at Slough County Court on May 8, 1996 whereby he awarded the plaintiff £4,450 general damages for personal injuries sustained in a road traffic accident with the defendant, Gregory Charles Bingle, on January 14, 1989. The judge had rejected the plaintiff's claim for special damages for the loss of social security benefits which he was receiving before the accident in respect of a pre-existing back injury.

Section 81 provides: "(5) . . . in the assessment of damages in respect of an accident, injury or diseases the amount of any relevant benefits paid or likely to be paid shall be disregarded."

Mr Roger Smith for the plaintiff; Mr David Tucker for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that at the date of the accident the plaintiff was in receipt of social security benefit. He received £30,201.27 benefit payments from the date of the accident to January 14, 1994 and the Department of Social Security issued a certificate of total benefit in that sum which formed the basis of the deduction from the amount of any compensation payment made by the defendant to the plaintiff and required to be paid by the defendant to the secretary of state.

To preclude the possibility that the whole of the plaintiff's general damages would be extinguished the plaintiff adopted the solution suggested by Lord Justice Henry in the Court of Appeal in *Hassall v Secretary of State for Social Security* ([1995] 1 WLR 812, 819) that the plaintiff could claim as special damage the loss of non-recoupable benefits he was receiving before the accident.

The judge had held that section 81(5) of the 1992 Act prevented any such recovery and that the subsection required the court to disregard the benefits altogether.

The subsection did not provide the conclusive answer to the plaintiff's claims the judge suggested. It was quite clear that it was in "assessing damages in respect of an accident" that the relevant benefits "paid or likely to be paid" were to be disregarded. So the provisions could not refer to benefits paid before the accident.

There was thus no support for the judge's interpretation that section 81(5) prevented the court from considering recovery of a sum as special damages based upon the benefit which, but for the accident, the plaintiff would have continued to receive.

The mere fact that the plaintiff continued to receive an equivalent sum in benefit to the sums which he was receiving before the accident was no bar to such a recovery. There was no reason in general principle why the plaintiff could not claim the benefits lost and the judge should have awarded the plaintiff a sum equivalent to the benefits which he would have received but for the accident, £9,926.21, which with his medical expenses and general damages amounted to £14,376.21.

That sum represented the limit the defendant as compensator was required to pay to the secretary of state.

It was then for the plaintiff to appeal against the amount stated in the certificate of the compensation recovery unit of the Department of Social Security.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Kleinman Klarfield, Stanmore; Greenwoods.

Correction

In *In re Harvard Securities Ltd; Holland v Newbury* (*The Times* July 18) Manches & Co were the solicitors for the liquidator.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown watches an English rose bloom among Paris's chattering yuppies in *Portraits Chinois*

Helena joins the French collection

Once upon a time you knew where you were with Helena Bonham Carter. You were in Merchant Ivory's Edwardian England; she was wearing petticoats. But since she cut her Pre-Raphaelite tresses, the world is her oyster. In *Margaret's Room* she was a greasy-haired urchin in a Nova Scotia coalmining community in the 1940s. Now, in **Portraits Chinois**, she is an English girl, Ada by name, living in contemporary Paris, speaking French, working as a fashion designer in a house run by Jean-Claude Brialy.

Having a mother who is half-French clearly helped her. For when Bonham Carter speaks you rarely hear the inflections of an English beauty, educated at public school, poking through the pursed vowels, grimaces and Gallic exhalations.

She talks a lot, too. All the characters do. Over several years they talk about love, desire, their apartments, their careers (either fashion or film-making). Much is lies. Much is uninvolving, not because of deficiencies in the smart cast, but because the director, Martine Dugowson, rarely looks under the surface. These chatterboxes come to the screen with no past history (the exception is Lise, the apprentice designer played by Romane Bohringer, whom Ada sees as a threat). We struggle to know what makes them tick, and to care about their liaisons.

Ada's boyfriend Paul, a screenwriter (Jean-Philippe Ecoffey), attracts Lise's attention. Lise, however, is being encouraged to team up with Paul's writing partner Guido (Serge Castellito), who has just split up with his girlfriend. Circling round them are other affairs and a pregnancy.

Possibly another director, working from another script, could have made these seem events of great moment, at least for as long as the film lasted. Woody Allen, perhaps. Or the veteran Eric Rohmer, France's best contriver of talkative trifles. But Dugowson, mounting her follow-up to *Mina Tannenbaum*, an observant study in friendship, hamstrings her cast with a shallow and overstretched script. Even with 15 minutes cut from the original running time we still wish to bid these people adieu a long time before the film does. Maybe the next time Bonham Carter speaks perfect French, the words will be worth hearing.

Helena Bonham Carter brushes up her French vocabulary to play the part of a fashion designer caught up in *liaisons* not very *dangéreuses* in Martine Dugowson's talk-heavy *Portraits Chinois*

If character and incident seem out of balance in *Portraits Chinois*, **Palookaville** juggles the two far more adeptly. The setting is somewhere in New Jersey, geographically close to Manhattan's bright lights but spiritually stuck in the provinces. The characters are would-be crooks, eager to rob their way to prosperity. I could be describing your average American independent movie, pock-marked with blood and the f-word and in thrall to the t-word (Tarantino).

In fact, Alan Taylor's first feature, written by David Epstein, pursues other characteristics. Warm-hearted humour. Sweetness and light. The influence of the postwar stories of Italo Calvino, filtered through Italian film comedies alive to the quirks of ordinary life like *Big Deal on Madonna Street*. Like Mario Monicelli's film, this is a tale of bungling. In the opening minutes, a jeweller's shop is the target, but the building next door, a pastry shop, gets hit.

The perpetrators, unemployed, do not have the home life of hardened criminals. One (William Forsythe) lives with dogs. Another (Vincent Gallo), striving so hard to be Mr Big, lives with his mother, his sister and her husband, a cop. Another (Adam Trese) clings to his wife and kid, and is reluctant to participate. But empty pockets lure them all onwards. They watch the 1950 B-movie *Armored Car Robbery* to get ideas. That robbery, too, goes haywire; life lets them down yet again.

Taylor, a New York University graduate with an award-winning short and TV work to his credit, pitches the film as a realistic piece with fairy-tale trimmings. He keeps a tight rein on visual tricks, letting characters and settings weave their spell. Today we are unaccustomed to such good manners, and *Palookaville* may seem low in incident to viewers in need of an adrenalin rush. But to anyone wondering which way humane cinema went, this small-scale delight points the way.

Portraits Chinois
Curzon Phoenix, 15, 122 mins
Helena Bonham Carter talks and talks in French

Palookaville
Curzon Mayfair, 15, 92 mins
Endearing movie about would-be crooks

Love! Valour! Compassion!
ABC Swiss Centre, 15, 114 mins
Artifice! Smugness! Bad direction!

Broken English
Warner West End, 18, 93 mins
Bogged-down drama from New Zealand

Idiot Box
National Film Theatre, 83 mins
Engaging Aussie portrait of thick young criminals

The first inkling that **Love! Valour! Compassion!** is going to get on one's nerves occurs in the opening seconds. A harmonious voice is rhapsodising on the soundtrack about his lakeside country house: built in 1895, he warbles, and still with its original roof! That may impress America's estate agents, but it is hardly a selling point over here. Then the house owner's guests, all gay males, arrive and mingle: Arthur and Perry, accountant and lawyer, almost an old married couple; Ramon, the Puerto Rican dancer acutely aware of his sex appeal; Buzz, the musical comedy aficionado with a biting tongue; John Jeckyll, an English musician, aloof, mean-spirited.

To anyone familiar with Terrence McNally's off-Broadway play of 1994, they are all old pals. So are the players: with the exception of Jason Alexander, who replaces Nathan Lane as Buzz, the film reunites the original cast. McNally adapts his own text. The original director, Joe Mantello, directs again, showing minimal interest in cinematic matters. Perhaps the film's cosy elitism, smugness almost, comes in part from the production's inbreeding.

Mostly the source lies in McNally's script. As this houseful bicker, manoeuvre and nurture each other through three summer weekends, the characters grow to seem more like stereotypes than people, brazenly manipulated by the dramatist for comic, sentimental, or melodramatic ends. Jokes come easily to Buzz, the HIV-positive Broadway queen, but amusing lines about revivals of *The King and I* cannot in themselves sustain the film, or add bite to its treatment of Aids. The undue concern for effect shows again when John Jeckyll's twin brother James arrives, sweetness and light compared to his dark bile. On stage, John Glover's tour de force in both roles won him a Tony award; on film, the stunt loses its punch.

Joe Mantello has a particular part to play, too: any artifice or jarring mood is immediately highlighted by his static direction. For all the film's flashes of wit or tenderness, there are enough irritants here to put your back up, whatever your sexual stripe.

Over to New Zealand now for **Broken English**, a story of cultural assimilation with Croatian immigrants, a Maori working in a Chinese restaurant, and two Chinese sweethearts anxious to make "little Kiwis". This is fruitful material, though director Gregor Nicholas and Robin Scholes, producer of *Once Were Warriors*, restrict the film's appeal by styling it as a heavy drama of star-crossed lovers.

The Croatian father Ivan, proud and volatile, sets the tone, solving arguments with a baseball bat and imprisoning his own daughter for daring to becoming the Maori's lover and getting pregnant. Rade Serbedzija, the Croatian actor now rampaging through international movies, settles in for a long rage. Aleksandra Vujcic's Nina and her boyfriend (Julian Arahanga) are more persuasive, though not enough to make their problems electrify audiences.

If New Zealand disappoints, Australia comes to the rescue with **Idiot Box**, the week's second film about would-be criminals. This has a tarter taste than *Palookaville*, though there is still something likeable about Kev and Mick, young layabouts who rattle round the suburbs drinking, arguing, mischief-making and watching TV (hence the title). They imagine themselves street-smart, Kev especially. In fact they are dumb, never more so than when they acquire guns and concoct a bank robbery.

The director, David Caesar, trains a hip, quirky eye on these sad clowns, vividly portrayed by Ben Mendelsohn and Jeremy Sims. Visual interest is considerable: Caesar even makes police sticking pins in a map seem exciting. Sound, too, is inventively used. A film worth seeking out.

'Intelligent and enjoyable'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

SNAP VERDICT

☐ ***PORTRAITS CHINOIS***
Sarah Crook, 18: The French sure can make movies. C'est magnifique!
Damian Samuels, 20: Imagine the French doing *Peter's Friends* — or *Les Amis de Pierre* — and this would probably be the outcome. The only difference, unfortunately, is that this is as dull as ditchwater.
Tim Thornton, 21: Helena Bonham Carter comes over all cute and French in this average friends and relationships movie that doesn't really achieve anything or get anywhere.
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: Don't be put off by the subtitles. *Portraits Chinois* is intelligent and really quite enjoyable.

☐ ***BROKEN ENGLISH***
Sarah: A film about falling in love with the enemy. The best of this week's movies.
Damian: A multicultural *Fiddler on the Roof* set Down Under, with some very comic symbolism at the important moments.
Tim: A powerful and moving film of race, love, politics and mixed marriage.
Leslie: Cliché after cliché after cliché. A Kiwi *Romeo and Juliet*.

NEW VIDEOS: A fine portrait of childhood; and an absurd view of nuns

Ugly duckling comes good

■ **WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE**
Artificial Eye, 15, 1996
TODD SOLONDZ's compelling and unsettling comedy, full of remembered pain, contemplates the awful life of Diane Wiener, an 11-year-old geek at Benjamin Franklin Junior High. "Why do you hate me?" she asks a schoolmate. "Because you're ugly." She's also not very lovable, and it says much for Solondz and plucky young actress Heather Matarazzo that they continue to engage our sympathy for this outcast. Available to rent and buy.

■ **BEHIND CONVENT WALLS**
Redemption, 18, 1977
A NUN pricks her finger handling roses. Close-up of her sucking her finger with sexual longing. Par for the course in a film directed by Walerian Borowczyk, Polish animator turned art-house pornographer. This stately specimen of his dubious trade, based on a Stendahl novel, revels in fetishistic detail and the piquant looks of black-and-white nuns liberating themselves against dazzlingly coloured backgrounds. Difficult to watch with a straight face.

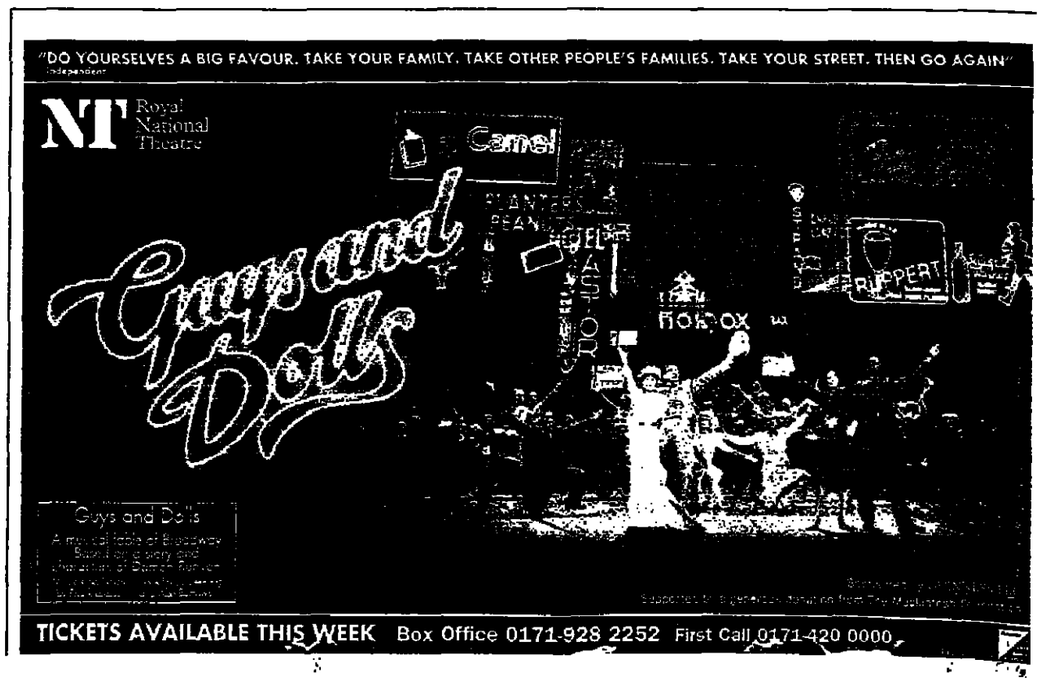
■ **THE FRIGHTENERS**
CIC, 18, 1996
THIS represented something of a backward step for Kiwi director Peter Jackson after *Heavenly Creatures*, though fans of garbled fantasy movies may find delight in its tale of a swindling ghost exorcist (Michael J. Fox) faced with genuine ectoplasm. Hollywood's budget ensures smooth special effects, but does nothing to stop jokes falling flat or the script blundering between comedy and horror. Available to rent.

Heather Matarazzo in *Welcome to the Dollhouse*

■ **OCTOBER**
Tartan, PG, 1927
THIS electrifying film by the great Sergei Eisenstein reconstructs the "ten days that shook the world" in October 1917, when the Bolsheviks brought down Kerensky's government. The director's methods are as revolutionary as the material: rapid-fire editing, elaborate montages, extensive use of metaphors. Characters may occasionally seem submerged in the visual fireworks, but it only needs the Winter Palace to be stormed or St Petersburg's bridges to be raised for the film to recover. The video uses the sound version prepared in 1967, with a score by Shostakovich.

■ **THE STARMAKER**
Fox Home Entertainment, 18, 1996
ADMIRERS of Giuseppe Tornatore's *Cinema Paradiso* may have their loyalties tested by the director's latest love letter to the cinema and to Sicilian life. The images are pretty in a postcard kind of way, but the story about a shyster from Rome who dupes villagers out of their money by posing as a film-studio talent scout is too drawn out and generates rather bogus emotions. However, the non-professional players are moderately pleasing; and Sergio Castellitto works very hard to make the lead character interesting. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



هكذا صفحة الأصل

LONDON

BBC PROMS In his final concert as music director of Opera North, Paul Daniel conducts the company and the English Northern Philharmonia in the 1947 version of Stravinsky's ballet, *Petrushka*. The first London performance of *Violanta*, Korngold's gory and erotic tale of murder and seduction, follows after the interval. The cast includes Jonathan Summers as Simone Trovai, Janice Cairns in the title role and Hans Aschenbach as Alfonso.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm

KISS ME KATE The New Shakespeare Company brushes up its Shakespeare in Cole Porter's witty, tune-packed musical. Ian Talbot directs Louise Gold, Issy van Randwyck and Andrew C. Wadsworth.
Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Opens tonight, 8pm. In rep

SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM Summer show celebrating the man. Kathryn Evans, Lisa Sadovy, David Melak make up the regular cast, with Dawn French (until August 2), the first in a sequence of guest MCs. Matthew Francis directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens July 28, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until September 6

ELSEWHERE

BEDFORD: Trestle Theatre Company joins forces with Dutch performers to present **Fool House**, a comedy about the hapless tenants of a seemingly ordinary house in Amsterdam.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

Bowen West, De Montfort University, Lansdowne Road (01234 219333). Tonight-Sat, 8pm

BRIGHTON: Peter Knapp's **Travelling Opera** company ends its tenth season with performances of Verdi's *La traviata* (tonight and tomorrow) and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Saturday)

Paul Daniel conducts a premiere at the Proms

Theatre Royal, New Road (01273 328488). All performances at 7.30pm

GLASGOW: Jade theatre company makes its Scottish premiere at the Tron with **Grace**, a highly visual new comedy by Sarah Woods about the desires of a 1990s woman on the eve of her 30th birthday. With Victoria Worsley. Directed by Theresa Heskins.
Tron, 63 Trongate (0141-552 4267). Tonight-Sun, 8pm

ISLE OF WIGHT: The **English Heritage** open-air concert and opera season continues with "Jazz on a Summer's Evening" in the grounds of Queen Victoria's family retreat. The programme begins with an hour of classic jazz and Dixieland from the Ray Terry Jazz Band. The Syd Lawrence Orchestra and Singers, directed by Chris Dean, then swing into action with numbers made famous by Glenn Miller and his Orchestra.
Osborne House, near Cowes (Ticketmaster 0171-413 1443/344 4444). Tonight, 6pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Coin Jewellery: Ancient, Medieval and Modern (0171-636 1555) ... **Christopher Hull**: Summer Exhibition (0171-235 0500) ... **Crane Kalman**: Celso Lagar (0171-584 7566) ... **Gasworks**: Forked Lightning and an Outbreak of Goosepimples (0171-735 3445) ... **Portal**: Summer Show (0171-493 0706) ... **Royal Academy**: 229th Summer Exhibition (0171-439 7438) ... **Talisman Fine Art**: Four Painters of the Imagination (0171-794 4266) ... **Tom Blau**: Adults in Wonderland: Grace Lau (0171-378 1300) ... **Wolseley Fine Arts**: Garden Sculpture (0171-792 2788)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **ALWAYS** Believe it or not, the King and Mrs Simpson story set to music (by William May and Jason Sprague) starring Jan Hartley and Clive Carter.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, W1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◩ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

◩ **THE BLUE GARDEN** Ted Craig directs Jan Waters and Amanda Mealing in a new play by Peter Moffat, author of *Iona Rain*, set in a famously blue garden in 1940 to which a refugee from Europe comes for shelter.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Tue, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 5pm. Until July 27

□ **CANDIDE** The European Satire season ends with David Farr's production of Voltaire's witty classic in a new translation by Murray Gold. Justin Salinger plays the trusting innocent who must suffer much before learning to work his garden.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Rd, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until August 2

□ **ELVIS — THE MUSICAL** Three actors-singers take us through the life of the King, with Michael Dimitri playing the mature Elvis. Strictly for fans.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Until Sept 6

□ **THE MAIDS** Niamh Cusack and Kerry Fox play the title roles, with Josette Simon as their adored and hated mistress, in Genet's over-heated but sometimes compelling drama of obsession. John Crowley directs.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm

◩ **MARLENE** Siân Phillips gives an attractive performance as the singer with the golden sheath dress. On the whole, more successful than Pam Gems's play.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◩ **POPCORN** Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm

□ **THE PROVOK'D WIFE** Michael Pennington (excellent as Sir John Brute), Alison Steadman, Victoria Hamilton in Vanbrugh's pungent comedy directed against the chains of marriage.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight, 7.30pm. In rep

□ **SHOPPING AND F***ING** Mark Ravenhill's hyper-realist look at a druggy, everything-for-sale society.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until August 6.

□ **TOM AND CLEM** Stimulating play with Alec McCowen and Michael Gambon as sober Attlee and flamboyant Driberg, sorting out the world at Potsdam.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6007). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until July 26

□ **THE WOOD DEMON** Good actors in a generally disappointing revival of Chekhov's first version of Uncle Vanya.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) □ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ◩ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) □ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) □ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◩ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) □ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT (12): Thin but amiable Spanish-language comedy set on a south London housing estate.
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

◆ **LADY AND THE TRAMP** (U): Disney's 1955 cartoon revived: bland, but with a faint canine charm.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE LOST WORLD** (PG): Routine story damages the sequel to *Jurassic Park*. With Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore. Director, Steven Spielberg.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

REMEMBER ME? (PG): Suburban comedy in a fake-Ayckbourn style by Michael Frayn, with Robert Lindsay, Imelda Staunton and Rik Mayall.
NFT (0171-928 3232)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

CURRENT

◆ **BATMAN & ROBIN** (PG): Schwarzenegger's Mr Freeze tries to hold Gotham to ransom. Exhausting epic, with George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell and Uma Thurman. Director, Joel Schumacher.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CON AIR** (15): Nasty prisoners hijack their plane. Ferocious rollercoaster ride, with Nicolas Cage.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990)

◆ **THE FIFTH ELEMENT** (PG): Sci-fi caper from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GET ON THE BUS** (15): African American males travel to Washington DC for the Million Man March. Contentious movie from Spike Lee.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

JOUR DE FETE (U): French postman emulates American methods. Joyous revival of Jacques Tati's first feature (1948), restored in colour.
Minema (0171-235 4225)

◆ **MURDER AT 1600** (15): Wesley Snipes solves a White House murder. Silly thriller, with Diane Lane.
Odeon Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONE FINE DAY** (15): Two single parents juggle kids and careers. Beguiling comedy with George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer. Director, Michael Hoffman.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0181-315 4212) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **RUMBLE IN THE BRONX** (15): Hong Kong cop hits trouble in New York. Rousing but anchor-footed vehicle for action superstar Jackie Chan.
Virgin Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

Simon Tait traces a curious collaboration on a windy Oxfordshire hilltop

Unearthing a three-way Iron-Age plot

JOHN MARTIN

Andrew Watson (left) and Simon Callery make precise adjustments to Watson's camera at Segsbury camp

THE photograph above is a view not of the surface of Mars, but of Segsbury Camp, an Iron-Age fort near the Ridgeway in Oxfordshire. It is part of a composite of 378 photographs, each precisely 17.8 centimetres square, taken six feet above the ground.

This unusual piece of art is the culmination of a year-long collaboration between a painter, a photographer and an archaeologist, and it will be on show from this weekend at an exhibition near Faringdon in Oxfordshire. A large plan chest is being built containing 378 drawers, each holding one of the photographs in its correct place in relation to the whole site. Visitors can view each photograph separately, and then see how it combines with its immediate neighbour.

The whole work reveals the shadows of the civilisation that lived in round houses at Segsbury in about 300BC. Gary Lock and his students from the Oxford University Institute of Archaeology have gradually been tickling away at chalk and mud with tiny trowels and toothbrushes, freeing a shard of pottery or a skull.

> ‘This co-operation goes completely against the grain’

Simon Callery is the painter who took on a residency on the site for a year. His ethereal evocations of London cityscapes have been bought by the Tate and by the Saatchi Collection. He usually makes his huge abstract canvases by painting, scraping away, and repainting in a process that can take many months — "it's a sort of excavation, cutting through the surface to find whatever is underneath," he says. With the Segsbury Project the archaeologists are doing the scraping away for Callery. He started in April 1996 by sitting with them and drawing what he saw, "but the tiny detail of what they were pulling out was just too intense, and I realised the only way we could cover the subject was with photographs". Then Paul Bonaventura, an Oxford research fellow at the Ruskin School of Art who believes that Callery has the vision to move aesthetic boundaries in a way that few contemporary artists can, introduced him to Andrew Watson, a photography tutor at Central St Martin's School of Art.

"This collaboration between visual art and archaeology goes completely against the grain," says Watson. "What the archaeologists are finding might not be understood until they're long dead: that doesn't concern them. But a visual artist wants credit straight away."

The way they work is quite different, too. "What can be so annoying about artists is the lack of exactitude," says archaeologist Lock. "The information we're dealing with is so great that we have to be precise and scientific about everything; an artist can just ignore all those details and go for the idea." But the artists' approach is also adding to the scientists' understanding. "We're getting something broader, something human, out of what Simon and Andy are seeing," Lock says.

Callery in turn began to see that the interesting point of the dig was not the finds but the work itself, and the composite site. So while the scientists have come to appreciate the eye of the artist, Callery and Watson have had to adopt some of their principles of precision for taking the photographs.

The residency, funded by Southern Arts, is officially over, but Callery is staying on site. "When I go back to my studio in London I'm still doing the work I was doing before I came here, so I don't see any change. Of course, Segsbury will be in my painting, but I don't know how, or when ... it might take years."

● *The Segsbury Project is at the Great Barn, Great Coxwell, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, this weekend and then at the Pitt Rivers Museums and the Oxford University Museum (Sept 26-Oct 31)*

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300
UNTIL 9 AUGUST Eves 7.30. Sats 2.00 & 7.30 (6 Aug 2.00 & 7.30)
THE KIROV BALLET
Last performance Tonight
SWAN LAKE
Last 3 perfs Tomor & Sat (m&e)
DON QUIXOTE
Mon, Tue & Wed
FOUNTAIN OF BAKHCHISARAI

THE ROYAL BALLET/ THE ROYAL OPERA
NEW SEASON 1997-98
For theatres, dates & prog info please call 0171 212 9123

ANTIQUE & ART FAIRS

SUSSEX ART & ANTIQUES FAIR
24 - 27 July
Barkham Manor Vineyard, Piltdown, off the A272, 3 miles West of Uckfield, E. Sussex. AA signposted
Thurs 24th, 6 - 9pm (£5)
Fri 11 - 8, Sat 11 - 6, Sun 11 - 5
Adm £4
Penman Fairs 01444 482514

THEATRES

ADELPHI 0171 413 1777 (24hrs) Grps 0800 614903, 0171 930 3000
"ABSOLUTE PERFECTION!" Daily Mail
JERRY LEWIS
DAMN YANKEES
"A GREAT GLAMOROUS, GLITTERBALL OF A SHOW, A GIFT FROM BROADWAY!" Sunday Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30
Final perf at the Adelphi 9 Aug
RETURNS 25 SEPT TO VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1317

ADELPHI
cc 344 0055/420 1220 (£1 bkg fee)
CHICAGO
THE DROP DEAD BROADWAY HIT
RUTHIE HENSHALL **UTE LEMPER**
Previews from 27 Oct Opens 18 Nov

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444
Mon-Sat 8 Thur 3 Sat 4.30
ROY MARSDEN **MICHAEL ELPHICK**
in BERNARD SHAW'S
PYGMALION
ALL SEATS £10 UNTIL MON
Opens Monday at 7pm
(Call Box office for Full Details)

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6007 (£1 bkg fee) **0171 420 0000 (24 hrs/no bkg fee)**
Eves 7.30 Wed & Sat mats 3
"THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY IN TOWN" Herald Tribune
MICHAEL GAMBON **ALEC McCOWEN**
"TOWERING PERFORMANCES" Evening Standard
TOM & CLEM
a new play by
STEPHEN CHURCHETT
Directed by
RICHARD WILSON
FINAL WEEK
Must End Sat

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS
Tel 0171 680 6222
or fax 0171 481 9313

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6009
0171 420 0000 (24hrs/no bkg fee)
Previews from July 30
Opens Aug 5 at 7.00
ALAN BATES
in
LIFE SUPPORT
A new play by **SIMON GRAY**
Directed by **HAROLD PINTER**
Evgs Mon-Sat 8 Mats Wed & Sat 3

APOLLO LABATTS BO cc (no bkg fee) 0171 416 6055 cc no bkg fee 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 416 6075 freephone 0800 614 903
SUMMER HOLIDAY
"The Ultimate Feel Good Show"
Cliff Richard, The Sun
Starring DARREN DAY
Limited Summer Season
Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 2.30
Wed mats students & OAP's 12.50

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454
BEN ELTON'S
POPCORN
"Fast, funny and downright sexy" Evening Standard
"A bloody good night out." F.T
Mon-Sat 8.00pm
Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH
White knuckle runs 19.45 daily
Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588
GREASE
NOW IN ITS 5TH FANTASTIC YEAR!
Starring RICHARD CALKIN
"A Monster Hit" D Mirror
Mon-Sat 7.30pm Wed & Sat mat 3pm
GREASE NOW BKG INTO 1998!

COMEDY 0171 369 1731
344 4444/420 0000 (24hrs)
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 4.30
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
PETER BOWLES
SHEILA STEAFEL HENRY McGEE
PAUL DANIELS
in Molière's hilarious comedy
THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES
"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS" Daily Mail
EXTENDED ONE WEEK BUT FINAL 2 WEEKS

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes
"Hilarious" Times
Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5
Sun at 4 Eves at 8pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)
Tuesday at 8pm
Now Booking to Jan 98
AIR CONDITIONED THEATRE

DOMINION 0171 656 1885/0990 203020/0990 204020/0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6096/0171 312 1997/ 0800 614903
London has fallen in love with DISNEY'S
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
THE NEW HIT MUSICAL
"AN ENCHANTED EVENING - GENUINELY GLORIOUS" D Tel
"A FEAST OF GOOD FUN" D Mail
Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444 420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS BO cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444 420 0000 (bkg fee)
Royal Shakespeare Company
THE HERBAL BED
"Peter Whelan's wonderful play... a love story, a moral thriller and a courtroom drama.
THRILLING...FAR AND AWAY THE BEST THING IN THE WEST END" S Times
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO 4 OCTOBER

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033/494 5365
NOW IN ITS 9th HIT YEAR
ROBERT DEMEGER **DAVID PULLAN**
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D Mail
Mon-Sat 8pm
Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm
Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 494 5038 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 434 5454
Winner of 19 Major Awards
The Royal National Theatre Production
PIP DONAGHY **SUZANNE BERTISH**
BARRY STANTON
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D Mail
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D Tel
Mon-Fri 7.45 Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5040
SHOPPING AND F***ING
by Mark Ravenhill
"A remarkable play" Time Out
Eves 8pm Mats Thur 3pm Sats 5pm
LAST 2 WEEKS
Ends Wed 6 August
Prior to international tour

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) Eves 8 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 5
Royal Exchange Theatre Co. OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY
LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN
"IRRESISTIBLY GLAMOROUS"
"DON'T MISS IT" Obs
LAST WEEK
From Tue for a strictly limited season
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
Martin Shaw Kate O'Mara
Simon Ward Kim Thomson
Michael Denison Dulcie Gray
OSCAR WILDE'S MASTERPIECE
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
"GREAT AND GLORIOUS" S Tms

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 bkg fee cc 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO DEC 97
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Apply to Box Office daily for returns

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS
Tel: 0171 680 6222
or fax: 0171 481 9313

LONDON PALLADIUM BO CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1.50 serv. chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/312 8000
BARRY HUMPHRIES RETURNS AS FAGIN
OLIVER!
3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1606 0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6076
TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
"Sends shivers racing down the spine" D Telegraph
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
(no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm)
215 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance
Now booking to March 1998
Some seats avail at door Mon - Fri

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS
Tel. 0171 680 6222
or fax. 0171 481 9313

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5045 (cc bkg fee)/344 4444 (bkg fee)
Eves 7.45, Wed & Sat mats 3pm
SIAN PHILLIPS
simply brilliant as **PAM GEMS'**
MARLENE
Directed by **SEAN MATHIAS**
OVER 100 PERFORMANCES

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252: Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000
OLIVIER Ton't, Tomor 7.15 **GUYS AND DOLLS** based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon, music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30 **LADY IN THE DARK** a musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by Kurt Weill. Tomor 7.30 **AMY'S VIEW** a new play by David Hare
COTTESLOE Ton't, Tomor 7.00 **KING LEAR** William Shakespeare

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616
24hrs 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
"THE MOST CRUCIAL THEATRICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR" Michael Billington
7 days a week
WAITING FOR GODOT
by **Samuel Beckett**
Today & Sat 2.30pm, Tue 7.30pm & **conts in rep**
THE PROVOK'D WIFE
by **Sir John Vanbrugh**
Ton't 7.30pm, Sun 3pm, Wed 7.30pm **& conts in rep**
GRACE NOTE
by **Samuel Adamson**
Last 2 perfs Sun 8pm & Mon 7.30pm
WASTE
by **Harley Granville Barker**
Tomor 7.30pm **& conts in rep**
THE SEAGULL
by **Anton Chekhov**
English version by **Tom Stoppard**
Sat 7.30pm **& conts in rep**
AIR CONDITIONED

OPEN AIR THEATRE, Regent's Park 486 2431/1933cc 344 4444 (24hrs) (bkg fee)
Kiss Me Kate Opens Tonight 8pm. Eves 8pm Mat Sat 2.30pm
A Midsummer Night's Dream Next Perf Wed 30 July
All's Well That Ends Well Next Perf Fri 1 Aug
Watership Down Opens 5 Aug
Phil Cool Sunday at 8pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 12TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier Drama Awards
Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards
HELEN REDDY in
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
"Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm
NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN '98

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734
Mon-Thu 8, Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30
THE OFFICIAL MUSICAL
ELVIS
"A Show Fit for a King" Tms
"BREATHTAKING" Gdn
Fri 5.30pm All seats 2 for 1

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734/0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 (24hrs)
ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES'
CINDERELLA
Prevs 22 Sept. Opens 7 Oct

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE B.O. 0171 839 4401/cc 316 4747 (24hrs)
THE WEST END PREMIERE OF ANTON CHEKHOV'S MIDSUMMER COMEDY
THE WOOD DEMON
COMIC HIT OF SUMMER
"NOT TO BE MISSED" F.Times
(Limited Season)
Mon-Sat 7.30pm Sat 2.30pm

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444
Groups 430 0200
WINNER BEST CHOREOGRAPHER
BEST NEW MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS
MARTIN GUERRE
"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT" S. Times
NOW IN ITS 2nd YEAR
MARTIN GUERRE
BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE" Int Her Trib
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO FEB 1998

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987
First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone 0800 614903
"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN'. ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY." D Mail
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE
THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER
Directed by Jerry Zaks
"AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY" E. Std.
Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm
REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998
AIR COOLED THEATRE

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
LONDON (0171 494 5077)
DUCHESS THEATRE: THE HERBAL BED Ton't 7.30
STRATFORD (01789 295623)/ 0541 541051 (24hrs)
RSC STOPOVER for details 01789 414999
RST: HAMLET Today 1.30 **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** Ton't 7.30
SWAN: THE SPANISH TRAGEDY Today 1.30 **LITTLE EYOLF** Ton't 7.30
TOP: FAUSTUS Ton't 7.30

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
Opening Season
27 May - 21 September 1997
BO 0171 316 4703 (24hrs) 0171 401 9919 **Henry V, The Winter's Tale**
Tues-Sat 2pm and 7.30pm Sun at 4pm

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443
Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8.
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
45th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800
cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588
"BUDDY"
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
"BUDDY"
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
"BUDDY"
Mon-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR
Now booking 'til the year 2000

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987
Bill Nighy **Stella Gonet**
Royal National Theatre Production
SKYLIGHT
"The play of the decade" Int Her Trib
by David Hare
directed by Richard Eyre
Mon-Sat 8pm; Wed & Sat Mats 3pm

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS
Tel: 0171 680 6222
or fax: 0171 481 9313

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1317/878 2003)
"RAVISHING"
(CLASSIC FM, LBC & GLR)
"GENUINE GLAMOUR" Sun Tel
ALWAYS
A NEW MUSICAL
Mon-Sat at 7.30pm/Wed-Sat mats at 3.00pm
AIR CONDITIONED
Final Week - Must End Sat

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Eve Standard Awards
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Awards
"ART"
A new play by Yasmina Reza
Trans. by Christopher Hampton
"Fly, swim or skate just to see it" New York Times
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5

298,000 readers of this section go to the theatre at least once every 2/3 months.
To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our sales team on
0171 680 6222
or fax
0171 481 9313.
All major credit cards accepted

هكذا من الأصل

Gershwin triumphs, wet or dry

OPERA

Porgy and Bess
Bregenz Festival

Summertime, and the opera-goin' should be easy. It wasn't last weekend at the Bregenz Festival, where the floods sweeping Central Europe pushed up water levels on Lake Constance and drove the first two performances of a spectacular new **Porgy and Bess** indoors. But if Bregenz has not been immune to the weather, it remains as resistant as ever to the operatic conservatism that pervades most of Austria: given in tandem with this uncompromising *Porgy* is a revival of Anton Rubinstein's long-neglected masterpiece, *The Demon*.

And thanks to the vision of Alfred Wopmann, the canny Intendant who operates on a mixture of idealism and realism, more innovation can be expected before he leaves the festival in 2002. This season has seen the addition of a versatile rehearsal space that will also be used for performances of experimental works, sometimes dance or drama, but in 1998 the premiere of the Austrian composer Georg Friedrich Haas's chamber opera *Nacht*, based on texts by Hölderlin. Next year's rarity in the Festspielhaus is Montemezzi's *L'amore dei tre re*, and in 1999 it will be Martinů's *Greek Passion*, staged by David Pountney and Stefanos Lazaridis in a co-production with Covent Garden due in London the following year.

The new rehearsal space proved itself already this summer, allowing detailed work on Götz Friedrich's *Porgy* production to continue during the unseasonable rain. Whenever thunderstorms previously caused disruption, straightforward concert performances had to be given indoors, but here we got a fully costumed, fully choreographed show, though without Hans Schavernoch's epic highway structure which stood empty outside, but will come into use later.

Still, the costumes (Sue Wilmington), graffiti-covered backdrops and graphic signs of urban decay all make the producer's concept clear; and with yellow schoolbuses on earthquake-ravaged freeways, and heartless white cops tormenting a black community, this updating moves Catfish Row to present-day Los Angeles. Stereotyping is avoided, and the work emerges as a powerful piece of social criticism, just as relevant as when it was composed 60 years ago.

One gain from the temporary move indoors was that the amplification could be switched off: Andrew Litton was able to give a carefully balanced account of Gershwin's score, almost as idiomatic as he did at Covent Garden a few years ago, though there were times when the Vienna Symphony Orchestra needed to "let go" a little more. The very even cast was led by Arthur Woodley's dignified Porgy and Marquita Lister's glamorously sung Bess, her character a bundle of contradictions. Jeff LaVar's Crown may have been cast more for his pectoral rather than vocal muscles, but Eric Lee Johnson was a wily Sporting Life and the chorus (Harlem Singers) strong.

Musically, at least, **The Demon** was even better. Rubinstein's 1875 score, a vital, "missing link" in the history of Russian opera, was vindicated by Vladimir Fedoseyev in a deeply resonant performance. Based on Lermontov's dramatic poem about the supernatural seduction of the mortal Tamara by a fallen angel, the work was the first to bring complex emotions into Russian opera, and there was no hint of cardboard characterisation here. The bass-baritone Egils Silins was commanding as the isolated but not evil Demon, and the soprano Marina Mescheriakova a rich-voiced Tamara. With other roles filled by Slavonic singers, and choruses drawn from Moscow and Sofia, the sound was stirring.

Aware that the work still needs careful handling, the Australian producer Neil Armfield, soon to stage *Billy Budd* for Welsh National Opera but making his European debut here, adopted a naive, open-eyed approach. Carl Friedrich Oberle's simple designs, with a rolling backcloth that evoked Vrubel's famous Lermontov-inspired paintings, had beautiful simplicity, but at times there was too much costume-drama and not enough psycho-drama.

In some ways the work looks forward to Russian symbolism and such operas as Prokofiev's *Fiery Angel*, and balancing this and its rather more conventional aspects is a special challenge that was not quite met. But with a Houston production of *The Demon* in prospect and Wexford's not forgotten, Bregenz has confirmed that the opera deserves reassessment.

JOHN ALLISON

Hans Schavernoch's *Porgy* set, an epic structure on the lake at Bregenz, will be used when the floods abate. Meanwhile, Götz Friedrich's staging goes on indoors

Elgar with a difference

BBC PROMS

BBC NO of [illegible]
Albert Hall/Radio 3

"THEY'LL clap at anything, this audience," remarked my neighbour, after Steven Isserlis's performance of the Elgar Cello Concerto. "Bring back Paul Tortelier, I say." Impertinent maybe, but he was touching on two important points. The first is that 5,700 people had chosen to hear the Concerto and Bruckner's Ninth Symphony played by a regional orchestra. When else, where else could this happen? These listeners wouldn't clap at "anything" but they were appreciative in the best sense of the word.

The second point is that if anyone was looking for their "own" Elgar as heard on best loved recordings, Isserlis was going to disappoint them. This was not an Elgar for the display of high passion, but seemed to well up from the afterglow of exhaustion. The descent of the famous melody came dropping slow: all the regret, but little of the sculpted tensions one is used to. Sometimes, he seemed to reach past enervation and into a dream world, where a certain detachment crept in (as in the Scherzo) or a sense of timelessness as in the final Moderato. He was restrained in all climaxes until the Moderato's final cadence, to which point of hushed intensity he moved with a liquid legato.

The BBC National Orchestra of Wales accompanied well. They began with Mendelssohn's overture *Ruy Blas* which can be safely consigned to the justly neglected masterpiece pile. It is full of standard sequences, which kept the orchestra busy but failed to dazzle. Taking on Bruckner's Ninth in the second half was a tall order: this work is one of the most exposing in the repertoire. Stuffed full of brass interjections, the challenge is to find coherence across an arena of distant sonorities. Opening horn and trumpet calls did not augur well, but the performance warmed as it progressed. The Scherzo was demotic and some powerful string playing made for a memorable Adagio.

One wished for a stronger hand on the work from Otaka who didn't push the first movement on. After so magisterial an opening the second theme should melt into its flowing quavers; here it was held in check. Towards the end of the Adagio the horns came together in some glistening chords whose stillness made for a magical ending.

HELEN WALLACE

Cinematic cocktail

CABARET

Steve Ross
Pizza On The Park

IRVING BERLIN was right; the melody does linger on. If Woody Allen can pull in the crowds with a promenade through the songs of yore in *Everyone Says I Love You*, then Steve Ross, prince of the Manhattan saloons, should be assured of an appreciative audience for some years.

You will not find Julia Roberts or Goldie Hawn draped across the piano in his Knightsbridge residency. Ross prefers to enlist memories of Fred Astaire, Eleanor Powell and others in his debonair celebration of songs from the cinema. Although he is not averse to laying on the camp and kitsch, his presentation and cocktail humour are as sharp as the parting in his slicked-down hair.

His passion for Cole Porter drew him to the songwriter's contribution to the obscure 1937 film *Rosalie*, crowned by a shimmering treatment of *In the Still of the Night*.

The British singer Robert Haberman then made an engaging guest appearance in homage to the double-act of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, relishing the wit of lines such as "Like Webster's Dictionary, we're Morocco-bound".

Ross's abrupt transition to modern times in *Everybody's Talkin'*, from *Midnight Cowboy*, was slightly jarring. Hearing him searching for depths in Barbra Streisand's *Evergreen* only brought to mind the "moon-June" parody that we heard earlier on the Gershwins' *Blah, Blah, Blah*.

Ross's voice is not conventionally pretty. What it lacks in tonal depth it more than makes up for in buoyant phrasing, cushioned by effervescent piano chords. *Puttin' on the Ritz* and *They All Laughed* were dispatched with brio, while on *They Can't Take That Away From Me* the slowing of the tempo and casual, bluesy ambience were proof that Ross's range extends well beyond that of a Park Avenue dandy.

CLIVE DAVIS

THEATRE: A fine revival of Duras's dark 30-year-old classic; plus Friel's puzzling 30-year-old tale of doom

DONALD COOPER

Outwardly civilised: Julie Christie (Suzanna) and Aden Gillett (Michel), her lover, in a moody drama about female psychology, marital analysis and understated conflicts

A hell of a marriage

Suzanna Andler
Chichester

It is February on the coast near St Tropez. The wind blows, and so, from time to time, does a wistful woodwind, punctuated by a doleful double-bass. The sea glumly whooshes. Black crags are visible below a tall, gloomy door whose sides are brushed by thin, wizened trees. You aren't surprised to learn that the couple who own this Gallic Mandalay have split up. The wife tried to kill herself or someone tried to kill her. Either way, they were hardly a fun pair inhabiting a place for fun people.

It is the perfect setting for Marguerite Duras. The moment Julie Christie glides onstage at the Minerva, smiling forlornly above her chic black overcoat, you know this will be one of the dramatist's moodier exercises in female psychology and marital analysis. Instead of dramatic cut and thrust, you will get nudge and hint. The emotions, like Johan Engels's set, will be dark and hidden. Hypersensitivity will rule — and why not?

I must confess that Duras's work sets off something blunt, male and impatient in me; but there is no doubting its class, especially when as physically elegant and emotionally fine an actress as Christie is in control. She is Suzanna Andler, wife of a wealthy, faithless Parisian. She is in St Tropez partly to find a place to rent in August — hence her presence in this musty, deserted mansion — and partly to carry on an affair with a journalist called Michel.

Christie's Suzanna has scenes with Aden Gillett's Michel, who is a lot more in love with her than she is with him, and, her arms defensively if politely folded, with Julie Legrand's poised yet uneasy Monique, who is one of her husband's ex-mistresses. The tone is civilised, unemotional. The dialogue is sometimes more obfuscating than informative, for lies are habitual in this world. But gradually the portrait of a marriage emerges in shadowy silhouette; and pretty dreadful it looks.

We never meet Jean Andler, but Duras evokes his restlessness and charisma. He is a serial womaniser, and has long been urging Suzanna to take a lover herself. And now she has done so what do they both feel? Hard to be sure, partly because we learn that Jean has known Michel's identity long before the quietly climactic phone call in which Suzanna thinks she is telling him of the affair for the first time. But that old tag, *nec te, nec sine te*, sums up much. They have given up on their marriage, yet still need to be married to each other.

It is that mixture of feeling — baffling to themselves, maddening to those trying to storm their fortress — which makes a 30-year-old play worth the capable revival Lindy Davies has given it. Its understated conflicts still absorb, and still present a formidable challenge to the leading actress. Here is a woman marooned in a weird emotional hinterland, in which she simultaneously wants to kill her husband, kill herself, protect her husband, protect herself, preserve her marriage and finish it: yet nothing can be up-front.

Thus the weariness of soul that Christie suggests is as carefully controlled as it is deeply ingrained. Strained smiles conceal her true ennui, and when despair momentarily strikes, she actually has her back to us. Disappointing? To those who like their drama visceral, yes. But that is the way Duras wanted it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Pale post mortem

Lovers
Riverside Studios

IT IS 30 years since Brian Friel wrote this puzzling piece, and is hasn't got any easier with time. Two actors on a bare stage re-enact the last hours of a young teenage couple studying for their exams on a sunny hillside in Co Tyrone. A female voice-over, the kind that walks you through reconstructed crimes as if the participants were the victims of some awful Jeffrey Archer plot, tells you what they had for breakfast, what the weather forecast was, and the mysterious fatal boat ride that cost them their lives.

Between the joists of this narrative, Mag and Joe act like any disgruntled young couple who've been saddled with a pregnancy and shotgun wedding. The sweltering heat of Studio 3 adds another — all too palpable — dimension of discomfort to Joe's disillusion and Mag's propensity to bore.

The play swings like a pendulum between Mag and Joe's arguments on the hillside and chunks of creepy reportage. On the one hand, Friel weighs us down with documentary: the impersonal facts after the event, the impact of the drownings on the families. On the other, we have the disarming chemistry of two 17-year-olds whose hopes and fears are alive, banal and familiar.

Why did they die? Yvonne A. K. Johnson's production makes it clear that Mag and Joe are not simply victims waiting for a boat accident. Yet there is frustration too because not enough happens to exploit the feeling that one of them might have triggered something horrible on the boat. Surely that must be the manipulative point of this juggling act.

I, for one, didn't feel manipulated enough. But I suspect the opportunity for a truly compelling double-bluff was never in the writing in the first place. Ruth Kavanagh and David Eastman are good at putting the local colour into their characters' cheeks, he grudgingly doing the right thing by her: she, just 17, already sounding painfully middle-aged. I'm not sure I would wish them on anyone.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: American thrills; Wagner at speed; Puccini feast

CHORAL
Hilary Finch

■ **TO THE SOUL**
Walt Whitman settings
Hampson/Rutenberg
EMI 72435 55028 27 ★★★
£18.49

WALT WHITMAN, great caroller of life and the body electric, visionary and Bard of Democracy, once wrote an essay titled *Art Singing and Heart Singing*. His plea for a new music for a new-found land, and his own poetry, with its self-confessed indebtedness to European opera, find the perfect champion in the American baritone and adopted European, Thomas Hampson.

Hampson unearthed 400 settings while preparing this disc, and he has chosen 22, ranging from Stanford grandiloquently hymning the soul, to Bernstein setting an unpublished Whitman fragment. Three short interpolated poetry readings confirm Hampson's commitment to the fearless word power which rolls out of Whitman's verse, and is answered by Craig Rutenberg's robust piano accompaniment.

My own favourites, and those songs which live deep inside Whitman's own nerve system, feel the pulsing of his blood, are the African-American Henry Thacker Burleigh's *Ethiopia saluting the colors* of 1915, Charles Ives's maverick *Walt Whitman*, and Michael Tilson Thomas's thrillingly eloquent and big-boned *We two boys together clinging*, written specially for Hampson in 1993.

ORCHESTRAL
Barry Millington

■ **WAGNER**
Das Liebesmahl der Apostel etc
Choruses/Dresden Philharmonie/Plasson
EMI CDC5 56358 2 ★★
£15.99

OF ALL Wagner's lesser-known works, *The Love-Feast of the Apostles* is perhaps the least likely to earn a regular place in the repertoire. Some 20 minutes of forbiddingly unaccompanied male chorus lead to a five-minute peroration with full orchestra. But Plasson's new recording, with first-rate singers from Vienna and Dresden, shows that the *a cappella* writing does not have to be turgid, cutting an incredible seven minutes off Wyn Morris's IMP version in the process. The orchestra's atmospheric arrival is in fact worth waiting for (*Lohengrin* was just around the corner), and if Plasson doesn't quite whip up the excitement Morris does here, his fleetness is ample compensation.

His rendering of the *Trauermusik* — an outdoor funeral march to accompany the transfer of Weber's remains to Dresden — is also speedy, almost jaunty, to the detriment of the work's character, especially as the dark colours of massed wind/brass and muffled drums fail to register properly.

Fine performances, though, of the *Siegfried Idyll*, *Faust Overture* and two further *a cappella* choruses.

OPERA
John Higgins

■ **KIRI TE KANAWA**
Sole e amore, Puccini arias
Lyons Opera Orch/Nagano; Vignoles
Erato 0630 17071-2 ★★ *£15.49*

ERATO have made an effort to inject some variety into Dame Kiri's Puccini recital. Sprinkled among the familiar arias are a couple of intermezzi, from *Manon Lescaut* and *Butterfly*, and three songs. The latter include *Sole e amore*, a very early piece which was later recycled as the quartet from the third act of *Bohème*.

Te Kanawa sings it most winningly, but it serves less well as a record title. *Sole* is in distinctly short supply as Manon and Mimi, Tosca and Liu pour out their woes. Te Kanawa ill-advisedly begins with Tosca, not her best role, and then lets the other operas follow in chronological order. Mimi is no longer really her part either, for all the confidentiality she puts into the poor girl's short narration of a short life. She is happier with the soaring line of Manon's two arias, with the grace of Magda's Dream (*La rondine*) and with a pretty flower piece from Puccini's first opera, *Le villi*. Perhaps best of all is Butterfly's *Un bel di*, sung from the heart — and the chest.

Kent Nagano's accompaniment is supportive, though on the soupy side. Roger Vignoles is the neat pianist for the songs.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Peter Ackroyd on two books that assess the far-reaching influence of a writer who knew the importance of being talked about

An Oscar worth winning

BBC

Wilde and "Bosie", Lord Alfred Douglas: a fatal romance

It began, like so many fatal romances, in Paris. Oscar Wilde, still relatively young and with only a volume of his poems as a passport, travelled to that city in order to pay homage to the French masters of style. He always proclaimed his great debt to Mallarmé and the other Symbolists, for example, although he borrowed their mystery rather than their magnificence. One of this charmed circle was André Gide; he was a young man who, like most hedonists, possessed a strong sense of the spiritual. As a boy he slept on wooden boards with the New Testament for company; but the laurel wreath is sometimes more appealing than the crucifix, and Gide turned to verse.

It was in this guise that he first encountered Wilde but the scenes of the earliest meetings, as recounted by Jonathan Fryer, contain more comedy than poetry. Wilde "sidled up" to Gide and whispered to him, "Do you know why Christ did not love his mother? Because she was a virgin!" Immediately they arranged to have dinner, and were old friends by the time they sat down. At a slightly later date Wilde gazed at Gide's mouth. "I don't like your lips," he murmured. "They are straight like those of someone who has never lied. I want to teach you how to lie, so your lips become beautiful and twisted like those of an antique mask." It was enough to turn any young poet's head, and Fryer suggests that Gide felt himself to have been "spiritually raped"; it is lucky he got off so lightly.

Like any pilgrim, Fryer treads over familiar if sacred ground; *André and Oscar* recounts Wilde's history as well as the slightly less notorious career of Gide himself who, apparently, tried to convince himself of his own heterosexuality before being "taken" in the sand-dunes of North Africa by a local Arab. Thereafter he would "chance upon young goatherds", with their charming little flutes, and "the lyricism of such scenes penetrated the marrow of his bones". This last phrase is characteristic of Fryer's somewhat overheated prose; it seems that anyone who writes about Wilde finds it necessary to enter a Turkish bath of style.

Gide is perhaps the one who suffers most in Fryer's account. He emerges as a mildly irritating and somewhat peevish creature, torn in so many different directions that it is surprising he managed to remain in one piece. That is why his friendship never survived Wilde's disgrace. He refused to speak in his defence after the trials and, having been elected as "Mayor of the small Normandy commune of La Roque", was embarrassed to be seen with him in Paris. Anyone who puts a Normandy commune before a great artist can hardly be forgiven, but movements of time and fate are mysterious.

Gide was eventually awarded the Nobel Prize and settled down as a grand old man of European literature, even as Wilde himself was being dismissed as a pariah of no importance. Like many who know that they are guilty of bad faith, Gide alternately patronised and misrepresented Wilde in subsequent essays. But of course it was the true genius who triumphed in the end.

Fryer believes that Wilde in fact always "haunted" Gide, but, as Philip Hoare points out in *Wilde's Last Stand*, that was not necessarily a unique phenomenon. This book might almost be entitled Wilde's last trial because, at its centre, is the account of an extraordinary legal case at the end of the First World War when almost 50,000 English people were accused of being "ruled by the still extant culture of Oscar Wilde".

The names of Maud Allan and Noel Pemberton Billing are now quite forgotten, but their confrontation in the Old Bailey created what one newspaper called "extraordinary scenes and suggestions" which quite eclipsed public interest in the progress of the war. Maud Allen wished to dance Wilde's *Salome* in a somewhat suggestive manner but Pemberton Billing, MP and owner of a newspaper ominously entitled *The Vigilante*, accused her of pandering to "the cult of the clitoris". He was excused his use of the last word on the grounds that it was known only to the medical profession.

So a great libel case was brought. Legal proceedings of a salcious nature are the true popular entertainment of the British people and, much to everyone's delight, the details became more shocking by the hour. Pemberton Billing and his associates insisted that Maud Allen and Wilde's *Salome* were part of a larger conspiracy, organised by Germans, to destroy the moral fabric of the nation. It was a secret movement of intellectuals and aristocrats who were in turn the willing partners of prostitutes and homosexuals, actresses and politicians. The names of Asquith and Haldane were mentioned; it was intimated that the judge of the case itself, Justice Darling, also appeared in a "black book" of eminently corruptible officials.

The name of Wilde was on everyone's lips largely because some of his old associates and friends were involved in the course of the trial. Two of the blasted remnants of the Wilde circle, Alfred Douglas and Robert Ross, haunted the court like those ghosts of dead beauty invoked by Pope. Of course they turned upon each other and Douglas pursued Ross's own possible appearance in the notorious "black book" with a venom worthy of his father.

Philip Hoare suggests that this revolt of the populist Pemberton Billing against the established authorities did indeed mark the end of 19th century culture; but with the quixotic mixture of actresses and politicians, editors and prostitutes, we might also be witnessing the end of 18th century society as well. It was the last stand of the liberal Whiggish tendency in English politics.

It is an interesting and intriguing tale, but of course it has no moral. It ended in tears and the usual triumphalist pieties, according to the status of the respective parties, and then was quite forgotten. But, one element has survived. Jonathan Fryer registers the impression Wilde made upon his contemporaries, and Philip Hoare discusses the effect which he had upon posterity. He began as a sensation, came to maturity as a lesson in cultural history, and ended as one of the most important figures of the 19th century. At least, as he once remarked to a prison visitor, the English could no longer pretend that they had never heard of him.

ANDRE AND OSCAR
By Jonathan Fryer
Constable, £20
ISBN 0 09 475720 8

WILDE'S LAST STAND
By Philip Hoare
Duckworth, £16.95
ISBN 0 7156 2737 6

Vision that tried to see everything

Ardashir Vakil

RABINDRANATH TAGORE
An Anthology
Edited by Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson
Picador, £20
ISBN 0 330 349627

SELECTED LETTERS OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE
Edited by Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson
Cambridge University Press, £60
ISBN 0 521 59018 3

The daily assembly at my boarding school in North India began each morning with a prayer and a song. Some of the most memorable lines from my teenage years come from Tagore's selection of poems, *Gitanjali*:

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high:
Where knowledge is free:
Where the world has not been broken up into narrow domestic walls ...
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action —
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake."

These lines were translated from the Bengali original by Tagore in collaboration with Yeats and Thomas Sturge Moore in 1912-13. They were also, along with Robert Frost's *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, the favourite lines of India's most famous Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Not surprisingly, Dutta and Robinson include them in their packed anthology, along with a selection of letters, a newly translated one-act play, two short memoirs of his childhood and boyhood, various essays, black and white photographs of Tagore and his much admired avant-garde paintings, a tiny extract from his novel, fragments of poems, epigrams and three out of the 2,500 songs that Tagore wrote and composed.

It is an ambitious compilation for a 400 page book. Sometimes the pieces are too short or too abridged to really convey the flavour of the work; the songs are rendered impotent without their haunting, timeless tunes. Here, if ever, there is a good case for a CD to be pocketed in the back flap of this pricey anthology.

The most rewarding and revelatory part of this book, for Western readers (for whom, the editors confess, this book is mainly intended) is the section that contains five of Tagore's best short stories. The first one, *The Conclusion*, is a masterpiece. Reading it, even on a grey and rainy London morning, brought tears to my eyes. Not tears of sadness or joy, but the tears one might shed listening to Bach or while watching a poignant moment from a Satyajit Ray film: manmade creations of such sublime simplicity and beauty that only nature could match:

"In the course of life one sees a great many faces, but only a few become fixed in the mind, not for their external appeal but for some other quality — a transparency perhaps. Most faces do not give away much of the personality; but the transparent face — the face in a thousand — clearly reveals the mystery behind it and immediately impresses itself on the mind. Mrinmayi's face was one of these. Her eyes held all the wilful femininity of a nimble, unfettered fawn. It was a face that, once seen, was not easy to forget."

Such sentiments are at the heart of everything, both good and bad, I have ever read, heard or sung from the work of this great man and writer. Tagore's work is primarily concerned with innocence and clarity. He wants to be like the dying but happy boy in his drama *The Postmaster*, that begins this book. The child who is ordered to stay in bed by the village quack pleads with his father to allow him access to the window that looks out on to the "faraway hills", and all humanity that passes by. "I want to see everything — everything there is to see." Some lines later he says, "I don't know. I haven't read any books ... " A telling reversal of Mallarmé's world-weary opening to *Brise marine*: "*La chair est triste, helas! et j'ai lu tous les livres.*"

Tagore's work, the university he founded at Sanktiniketan ("abode of peace"), his huge body of work, seek to "knock at the doors of the mind", not through books, explanations and exams, but through the "nourishment of the imagination" and the day to day perception of the small but beautiful mysteries of life:

"I loved to stand and look ... In the fartherest recesses of a sky full of burning sunshine I would just be able to detect the thin shrill cry of a kite; and from the lane adjoining the Singhi's garden, past the houses dormant in noonday slumber, would float the sing-song of the bangle-seller — 'chai churi chai' — at such times my whole being would float away too."

SATURDAY

In the Directory:
Marcel Berlins on The Crime Writer's Handbook and Simon Barnes on Edmund O. Wilson's In Search of Nature

No heart without soul

Russell Celyn Jones

BREAKING HEARTS
By Simon Gray
Faber, £5.99
ISBN 0 571 17238 5

It's a sort of truism that successful novelists rarely make successful playwrights (Joyce, James, Bellow, et al), and on the evidence of this 84 page novella by playwright Simon Gray (*Cell Mates*, *The Common Pursuit*) the opposite is also the case.

Breaking Hearts is a self-absorbed farce which holds the reader to ransom — as his alcoholic protagonist Professor Helena Twiscombe is held to ransom by a perfidious student. After a clumsy changeover in narrator near the beginning, the text is all in the hands of this nameless female Iago.

Addressing herself to Twiscombe (as "Twiskers") she boars of her conquests, humiliating easy campus targets — the politically correct faculty, foreign students — who are never more than caricatures.

The book culminates in the seduction of Helena's Australian niece Sissy who, naked, is tied up in chains when she should have been accompanying Helena to the opera. This seduction is the novel's acme no less, but it remains curiously inert. And despite the bondage and the sado-masochism that accompanies it, unerotic.

Gray: flat farce

Gray leaves a few clues that Helena, delusional and hallucinatory, may herself be the author of this student's "diary" (all drunks are unreliable narrators). But it is a case of a few clues too many (or too late) as it is plainly obvious, as both narratives are written with the same phrasing, in the same timbre, trading in the same comic mode. This from the diary: "When people, all those people, and all *these* people give me the eye, between-my-legs (let's shorten this to btl - not to be confused with blt, which is a sandwich, Twiskers) — btl is always aware. Because btl is right in the centre of my brain.' "

And this from Helena: "But my students are on the whole too dim to notice even my coarsest physical characteristics — the wart underneath my nose, the thickness of my neck, my slightly soiled blouse (it soils itself the moment I put it on, however clean my hands), my dumpling legs, my shoes that only *look* sensible, while actually gripping my swelling and throbbing feet."

The best comparison I can come up with for Simon Gray is Tom Sharpe. Except Sharpe is funny. Gray makes the mistake of presuming certain scenes are intrinsically comic, like one in which an American student is conned into believing that the dog who bit her is a known rabies carrier. Here, the prose is on the level of bar-room banter: " 'Oh, shit. Oh, shit. Oh, shit!' Think of Minnie Mouse squeaking 'Oh, shit!' It was like that."

The critic Roland Barthes has said: "A text's unity lies not in its origin but in its *destination*" — with the reader. The novelist has not the same recourse as a playwright to actors and set designers to help sell the message. Fiction is not a team sport. Gray has neglected to do much of the work of a novelist and the result is a truncated half-book.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

SAVE £2 ON THE PUBLISHER'S PRICE OF £16.99
Felix in the Underworld
by John Mortimer £16.99 – now £14.99
Also save £1 off any other John Mortimer title

SAVE £2 ON THE PUBLISHER'S PRICE OF £16.99
Of Blessed Memory
by Erica Jong £16.99 – now £14.99

● You can also buy ANY English-language book currently in print
● FREE UK p&p ● Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability
● 24-hour service. Staff available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday.

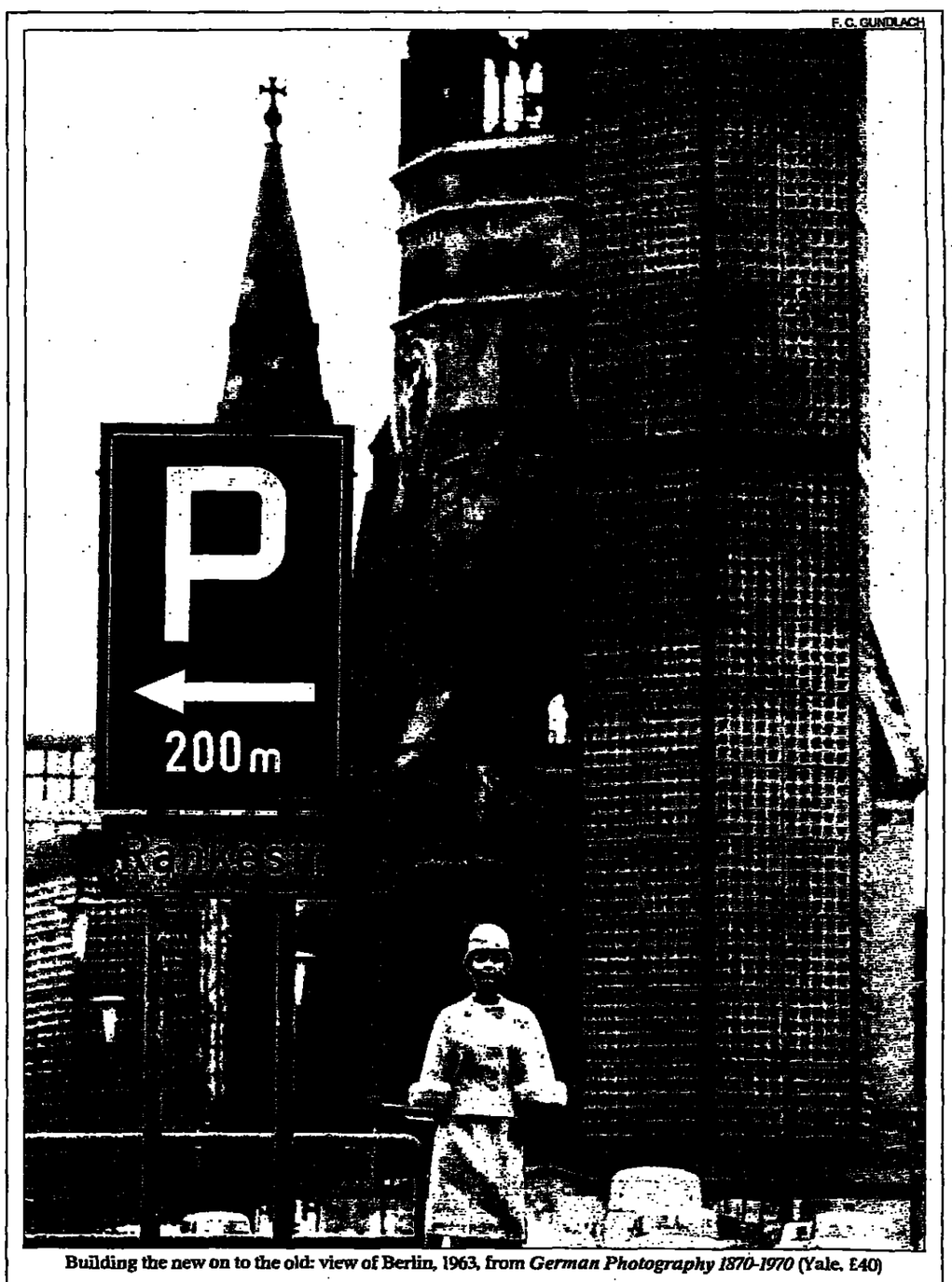
CALL: 0345 660 916 CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

Call +44 990 134 459 from overseas and the Republic of Ireland, fax +44 1326 374 888. e-mail: bookshop@the-times.co.uk

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2BR
Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet):

Qty	Title/Author	Total Price

Surname ..... Initial ..... Title .....
Address .....
..... Postcode ..... Tel .....
I enclose cheque/PO(s) payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £ .....
Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques
Debit my Mastercard/Visa/AmEx, Switch or Delta account no:
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ TT
Print Name ..... Expiry Date .....
Signature ..... Date .....
For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by airmail in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 35%.) The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers ☐



F. C. GUNDLACH

Building the new on to the old: view of Berlin, 1963, from *German Photography 1870-1970* (Yale, £40)

Tales from the city of change

James Woodall

BERLIN
By Giles MacDonogh
Sinclair-Stevenson, £25
ISBN 1 85619 525 2

READING Giles MacDonogh's absorbing book about the new German capital, you might wonder why anyone ever bothered with Berlin at all. Situated in an inaccessible corner of north-east Europe, with minimal cultural traditions, no cuisine and centuries of dismal housing, Berlin seemed to become merely the plaything of those accursed 18th- and 19th-century Fredericks and Williams of Prussia (who generally preferred Potsdam anyway). Their ambitious conceptions eventually went to ruin, first under the Nazis — helped by the work of Allied bombers — then under the communists.

How to make a 500-page book out of that? MacDonogh manages admirably. He eschews the obvious chronological mode, and tackles this weirdly mutated city thematically: architecture, society, the arts, even food and drink (a particular interest of MacDonogh's). The chapter on Berlin's physical disposition is the longest: no city in Christendom — with the exception of Jerusalem — has undergone such massive construction and destruction, only to emerge against all logic with its identity renewed.

This is key to understanding Berlin: its ill-mannered fight for survival. While there are prehistoric traces of settlement, the city proper didn't make its mark until the mid-13th century; it became the capital of Brandenburg in 1486. Frederick the Great brought real dynamism to the place in the 18th century, which is why 20 years after his death Napoleon so enjoyed defeating the Prussians — and plundering Berlin. Franco-German relations plummeted for a century and a half.

MacDonogh offers a wealth of detail on the feverish building which enlarged and transformed the city in the 19th century. However, MacDonogh's attention to architectural minutiae also slows the book down, leaving less space for portraying the Berlin most of us want to read about, the city of the inter-war Weimar Republic.

Indeed, the supreme irony of any such study of Berlin is that one of its key buildings, the imperial Schloss, bearing vital traces of 500 years of the city's evolution, can only have a ghostly presence: symbolising as it did so much about the triumphalist Prussian past, the communists blew it up in 1950. MacDonogh's many descriptions of this architectural dinosaur read more like an enthusiast's praise for a forgotten Berlin than a valid act of reconstruction.

Nonetheless, MacDonogh is finally true to his own dictum: "Berlin is a self-destructive place," he says. "There has rarely been any sentiment about the past." This was no truer than in 1945, when most of what MacDonogh writes about had gone. Fifty years later, in a vast, leafy and variegated urban landscape, it is hard to imagine the gutted Hades left by two years of total war. MacDonogh's evocations of it are vivid and moving.

His book is a broad history of a city remarkably resistant to continuity, although MacDonogh could have taken off his donnish hat and relaxed a bit more. I missed a fuller account of the one part of Berlin — Prenzlauer Berg, a working-class district in the former East — which does take us back through the Wall, Hitler and Weimar to a more human zone than the one found on Alexanderplatz or in the concrete open spaces of the West.

Still, MacDonogh's historical expertise, notably over the appalling deeds of the Nazis in Berlin, results in the most honest appraisal this ever-changing city can hope for at yet another decisive moment in its troubled history.

هكذا من الأصل

Trouble in trying to score a century

Felipe Fernández-Armesto fears the perils of chronology

Histories of the 20th century are like buses: you wait nearly a hundred years for one and then they all come along at once. To distinguish his, Martin Gilbert has devised two strategies. First, he has written at conspicuous length; his opening volume has 927 pages, while two others of equal corpulence are promised or threatened. Secondly, he has adopted a daringly antiquated method. Except for the additional chapters on the First World War, each chapter covers a single year from 1900 to 1933 inclusive. Sir Martin has chosen to be the analyst of his subject.

Annals suited ancient and primitive societies, where astrology commanded assent and where human life was thought to reflect the solar cycle. This was a largely unjustified assumption: 12 calendar months is a period almost devoid of historical significance. In the modern world, historians have gradually abandoned annual registers for less restrictive formats, which enable the reader to follow an entire story. Or they prefer an analytical approach which exposes the relationships between events.

A HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
Volume I: 1900-1933
By Martin Gilbert
HarperCollins, £30
ISBN 0 00 215867 1

In abandoning these advantages, Sir Martin has made impressive gains. Like Confucius in the great chronicle of early Chinese history, the *Ch'un Ch'iu*, he gives moral stature to an apparently unadorned catalogue of episodes by piling up horrors and atrocities. Although only the First World War is recounted without interruption, a picture of the century does unfold, composed of high politics and pop culture. A coherent, if unremarkable, thesis underpins the work: the 20th is "the century of war", a "terrible century" of frustrated hopes, when liberalism and democracy have struggled to survive.

A fluent style carries the reader through abrupt changes of scene. There are amusing juxtapositions. The chapter on 1929, for instance, opens with the "outlawing" of war and ends with the yo-yo, patented to the tune of *Happy Days Are Here Again*. In between come chillingly dead-pan paragraphs on the stock market crash.

These are qualities good enough to atone for many faults. The defects of Sir Martin's method, however, outweigh its merits. The uniformity of pace is soporific. The chapters are repetitive. The rhythm becomes predictable: relentless political *histoires évènementielles*, grindingly long and detailed, are followed by perfunctory listings of such innovations as sliced bread, the World Series victory for the Boston Red Sox and the first performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. The effect at times is of a cross between *Keesing's Contemporary Archives* and *The Guinness Book of Records*.

Coherence is achieved by sacrificing coverage of the science and art which have transformed our relationship with the world and our way of perceiving it. Under 1905 there is no mention of the theory of relativity. Einstein appears only once in the book, in a subordinate clause, as a peace lobbyist in 1917. Freud emerges from neglect only to approve of Austria's war policy. There is no reference to world-shaking innovations in physics during the period.

Cubism is omitted from the chapter on 1907: indeed, most of the visual arts — which record and reshape our world-view — are treated with indifference throughout. The Futurist Manifesto makes no appearance in the chapter on 1909, nor the Surrealist Manifesto in that on 1924, despite the power of these documents to influence political and social imaginations.

No literary movement is dealt with. Religion is virtually ignored. Except for Wittgenstein, who features as a combatant in the First World War, no philosophers appear. Yet that dim-witted diplomat, Sir Horace Rumbold, of whom Gilbert has written a biography, is repeatedly invoked as a witness of his times. It is impossible to understand or adequately to portray political and military events without the glutinous cultural context which sticks to them. Yet Gilbert says disproportionately little about changing values and habits, the growth of cities, the increase of populations, the demographic balance, the economic background of politics, agronomy, ecology or the effects of the revolution in communications.

Even the political coverage is too limited for its length. The impression of a "century of war" is the result of Gilbert's concentration on that theme. Equal selectivity in another cause would create an equally partial effect. He fails to mention Mexico in the chapter on 1911, where British unrest gets twice as much space as Chinese Revolution. Readers learn little about countries of immense size and importance — nothing of Brazil, nothing of Argentina, except that an abortive communist uprising took place there in 1917.

Narcissism is one of modern western historiography's worst vices. Gilbert has given us another westerner's history, in which the rest features chiefly when it impinges on Europe and the United States. We do not get the "fair balance of regions" we are promised. Too much of the book is compiled from sources it resembles, like *Cassell's History of England* and newspapers of record. Gilbert selects what was "in the news". In consequence, the story is shorn of discoveries which might make it rare and paradoxes which might enliven it. For the "century of war" has also been the century of pacificism. The frustrated hopes have coincided with unprecedented progress. Uncontainable change has left vast areas of the world mired in stagnancy. The century of ecology has been peculiarly destructive of nature. The century of youth has left us with a vast cohort of the elderly to care for. The century of democracy has been the century of dictators. The century of science and secularism has been that of revived faith. Our utopias have nourished moral malaise, suicide and crime.

Sir Martin could have developed these contrasts in pursuit of his declared aim "to explore" failed expectations of "inevitable progress towards perfection". As it is, they are driven between the lines of the political and military narrative by a method wasteful of space. The author's loyalty to the annalists' tradition is admirable but in this book he has taken it too far. With nearly 2,000 pages apparently still to come, we can hope that Gilbert will revise his plan and make the remaining volumes shorter, or more interesting, or both.

Heavenly creatures

Claire Messud

WHEN THE SONS OF HEAVEN MEET THE DAUGHTERS OF THE EARTH
By Fernanda Eberstadt
Harvill, £15.99
ISBN 1 86046 401 7

THE HEADY New York art world of the late 1980s — with its glamorous parties, postmodern double speak and spiralling prices — is a subject ripe for satire. In this, her third novel, Fernanda Eberstadt rises to the occasion with typically dazzling verbal virtuosity and wit: with an insider's unflinching eye; and with, most importantly, a fierce resistance to cartoonish reductiveness. *When The Sons of Heaven Meet the Daughters of the Earth* is frequently hilarious, but it is also a considered explanation of the interweaving of art, commerce and affection, an acute account of its characters' quests for transcendence in an often fatuous world.

At the novel's core is Isaac Hooker, the eccentric and ebullient protagonist of Eberstadt's last book, *Isaac and His Devils*. A brilliant, lumbering myope from rural New Hampshire, a Harvard dropout and an abrasive iconoclast, Isaac has arrived in the big city to seek his fortune. After sleeping rough and scraping by for months, he discovers the glory of art in a class for the homeless: "Now, drawing pictures was all Isaac wanted to do. The energy he'd once unleashed upon politics, history, science and poetry — even friendship — was now funnelled solitarily into this one silent thing. Pictures seemed safer than words." He paints ludicrously unfashionable pictures, New Hampshire scenes with religious themes; and ekes a living as an assistant to a fashionable SoHo framer.

Fate, with a little help from Isaac's flashy roommate Casey Hanrahan, leads him to the Geblers, Alfred and Dolly, artistic philanthropists whose life's work is the Aurora Foundation: "The premise of Aurora was simple: to choose a few men and women of genius and bank them for life." They are an unlikely pair: Alfred, Jewish and from Brooklyn, is something of a roué; Dolly is prim and fastidious. Only in their commitment to art — and in their children — are they conjoined.

The Gebler's fortune is Dolly's ("The aspirin queen, her husband called her") and their taste is minimalist, avant-garde. Eberstadt creates memorable comic scenes of the Geblers in their glamorous world of guarded and tasteful opinion; and among them she casts Isaac, "an oversized Fragonard, all pink and gold", whose impatience with decorum is matched by the force of his own ideas.

What ensues is inevitable and poignant: initially Alfred's "discovery" Isaac is whisked, by Dolly, into the maelstrom of the downtown art scene. The relationship between this bristly *grande dame* and her peculiar young protégé is impeccably drawn, and their companions look on, bemused, as both are irrevocably altered by it.

The novel's other central character is the city of New York, which vibrates in all its seasons through Eberstadt's pyrotechnic prose, just as the textures of rural New England emerged so vividly in *Isaac and His Devils*. *When the Sons of Heaven Meet the Daughters of the Earth* is a more tightly plotted, less intellectually sprawling novel than its predecessor, but the two books should be read together; not only do they reveal Isaac to be one of the most intriguing protagonists of recent times, they also show the breadth of Eberstadt's literary range, her formidable capacity to bring life, in all its facets, most fully to the page.

Fernanda Eberstadt: vivid colour and texture in her prose

Ffion Jenkins on the call of the valleys

Just as Welsh as you feel

What are the defining characteristics of a nation? How does geographic distance and the use of a language effect one's sense of national identity? To be Welsh, does one have to be hospitable, musical, eloquent and enthusiastic? Perhaps it takes a foreigner to ask the question in the first place, as Pam Petro does in *Travels in an Old Tongue*. She is aptly named, for "pam" means "why" in Welsh and "why" is a question that dominates this account of a world tour searching for, and conversing haltingly with, Welsh speakers in far flung destinations. Why do the Welsh persist in speaking the language? Why would an American want to learn it? Above all, why would anyone want to travel the world in search of Welsh speakers?

TRAVELS IN AN OLD TONGUE
Touring the World Speaking Welsh
By Pamela Petro
HarperCollins, £18
ISBN 0 00 255656 1

Petro, an American traveller writer of German-Hungarian descent, takes inspiration from a Welsh language course in Lampeter and begins her journey there, ending it in Welsh-speaking Patagonia. In between, 14 countries are traversed, several Welsh societies are uncovered, and the "Welsh" qualities of hospitality and welcome are constantly put to the test. In each country, Ms Petro seeks out Welsh expats or a local expert on Welsh culture and explores with them the nature of Welshness, where possible through the medium of Welsh. The result is a varied, occasionally contradictory collection of views of Wales and the Welsh from all over the world bound together by Ms Petro's own observations and shot through with the juxtaposition of Welsh and other cultures.

This may seem like a journey in search of a justification, but to think so is not very Welsh. On the other hand, the spirit in which Petro undertakes the journey is very Welsh, for one of the many indisputable truths reflected in the book is that when Welsh people meet, they invariably seek to establish a connection through family ties or acquaintance. And there usually is one. Pamela Petro applies a global dimension to the task, searching for a way through the language barrier to connect with Welsh speakers who, like herself, are in self-imposed exile. Not an easy task, given her very imperfect understanding of the language.

One expat in Oslo calls his Welsh society "the ones who left" and *Travels in an Old Tongue* is an account of Wales and the Welsh language through the eyes of those who have left. Their observations do not always ring true, but nonetheless paint a fascinating portrait of a country, its language and people, viewed from the outside. Ms Petro's journey across continents is imbued with an awareness of the bizarre nature of her quest, and her successes and failures are recounted with self-deprecating humour and honesty. Occasionally self-indulgent, the account is nevertheless compelling reading as cultures and prejudices clash all over the world.

Not unsurprisingly, Ms Petro raises more issues than she answers. She explores the link between language and identity without offering a firm conclusion, at times suggesting that Welshness and the Welsh language are inextricably linked, at others implying simply that you are as Welsh as you feel. She also raises historical controversies about the English domination of Wales with a convert's zeal, aware of the fact that to become a *dysgwr* (learner) of Welsh is to take a political stance, though she confesses that she does not know quite what that means for an American.

Definitions of Welshness and of nationhood have been attempted many times before, but this particular attempt is suffused with a love of the Welsh language that is infectious and, regrettably, probably incomprehensible to most of its readers.

Courage and mastery

Robert Nye

IN DESOLATE HEAVEN
By Robert Edric
Duckworth, £14.99
ISBN 0 7156 2783 X

There is a fashion for novels about the First World War. The names of Pat Barker and Sebastian Faulks come to mind. I confess to feeling uneasy with such work, preferring to re-read the poems and memoirs of those who actually took part.

Robert Edric's *In Desolate Heaven* skirts such objections by taking place after the armistice, in neutral Switzerland, and by coming at the horror of the war from a civilian point of view.

The novel is set around a lakeside hotel, where Elizabeth Mortlake has brought her anorexic sister-in-law Mary in search of respite from their grief for her slaughtered airman brother. Mary's husband. They find no peace. At the novel's opening, in one of its most haunting images, their retreat is invaded by a procession of walking wounded, who come down each day to the shore from a nearby hospital.

This hospital is full of casualties — "blind, legless, armless, faceless, crazy". Through the enigmatic Captain Jameson, an English officer who comes and goes at the hotel, Elizabeth gets to know them — especially Captain Hunter, with whom Jameson has a particular affinity. Hunter is awaiting court martial. His offence was to protest when his superiors plotted to sacrifice his men in the tunnels which they had mined under enemy lines.

Edric: the poetry of war

All the war action is *reported* to Elizabeth by the surviving soldiers. Thus the novelist is never felt to be pretending to be present at scenes of unimaginable carnage. There is a salutary sense of men not wanting to tell of the things that they know that they can do. Elizabeth's effort to understand this matches the reader and becomes it.

At the book's heart there is a deep darkness in which sex and death are intermingled. It is not just the darkness of the mines where hunter's men were killed. It transpires that Jameson has become a dealer in pornography. An abyss of erotic excitement lies beneath all that Elizabeth feels. At an understated climax she is aroused against her will by having her photograph taken. It is an innocent formal portrait, but in obeying every instruction of the photographer as to how she should pose, she abandons herself to him, knowing the man takes pictures for Jameson.

In Desolate Heaven is like one of those dreams where you can come awake, then fall asleep and continue where you left off: it has that kind of coherence and necessity. Apart from its poetic power, it demonstrates the truth of Plato's perception that only the dead ever see the end of a war.

A world built from fragments

Sylvia Brownrigg

SOLOMON'S SEAL
By Molly McCloskey
Phoenix House, £14.99
ISBN 1 86159 022 9

THE SECOND PENGUIN BOOK OF WOMEN'S SHORT STORIES
Edited by Susan Hill
Michael Joseph, £10.99
ISBN 1 86159 022 9

"IN THE MIDWEST, you trust, perhaps because the earth is flatter there. You can see so far in every direction, you begin to think that nothing is being hidden from you." So says the narrator of Molly McCloskey's story *Death of a Salesman's Wife*. But in this world it is unwise to trust, as something is usually being hidden.

A taut melancholy wires its way through the stories of *Solomon's Seal*, as McCloskey's characters strive for small, individual moments of pleasure or peace. They are splintered, wary people who observe the perfect marriages and "tight-fitting lives" of others with certain competitiveness. McCloskey writes with a haunting certainty about madness, notably in the brief, harrowing story *Losing Claire* about a friend's gradual surrender: "When I come closer ... I can hear her mind chattering as though her skull has become a cold place to be." Though a few pieces stand out — *Solomon's Seal*, a subdued tale of a kind of incest, and *Love*'s account of a couple surviving the accidental death of their infant boy — the stories build their memorable world cumulatively, piece by brittle, affecting piece.

In the *Second Penguin Book of Women's Short Stories* each story must build and contain its own effect. The stories here stunningly live up to that brief. They cross an impressive span of geographies and histories; and, intriguingly, often feature male protagonists — whether in Naomi Mitchison's dreamy account of boy hostages kept by Roman soldiers or Andrea Barrett's sparkling, masterful story of Carl Linnaeus' dying days. Throughout, these writers succeed in flushing full lives from the pages, as E. Annie Proulx's dogged old hunter flushes grouse from the damp woods in *An Unclouded Day*. There is the wonderful delicacy of Anita Desai's tutor in *Private Tuition by Mr. Bose*, intoning Sanskrit verses on the balcony to a sulky teenager while his wife makes *purees* indoors.

Happily, Hill has also chosen to include lesser-known writers in this volume, which allows for some pleasant discoveries, including Julia Darling's tart humour in *The Street* and the just-contained madness of Catherine Merriman's *The Experiment*. Hill has previously put together two excellent anthologies for Penguin, each providing the reader a sample from many of the finest practitioners of the medium. It is a fine, unsung art, the art of anthologising, and Susan Hill once again proves she is a master of it.

Sylvia Brownrigg's short story collection, Ten Women Who Shook The World, *is published by Gollancz, priced £12.99.*

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Religious, Poetry, Children's.
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED.
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON SW7 3DQ

Annie Turner says most people would still rather chat than face fax. But double-glazing salesman have discovered a window of opportunity

The future? It's all in our hands

Mobile phones are part of everyday life for many Britons. More than seven million subscribe to cellular services, even though the first services were launched here only in 1985.

CIT Research predicts the number of UK subscribers will hit almost 16 million by 2006. But most network traffic still comprises phone conversations, rather than data and fax transmissions.

This is despite the fact that the technology on which all four UK digital networks is based, Global System for Mobile (GSM and its derivative, Personal Communication Network, PCN) was designed originally as a European standard with data transmission capacity as an integral part. The networks are run by Orange, Mercury One2One, Vodafone and Cellnet. The business community was expected to pioneer the alternative use of mobile phones, followed by consumers, as the availability of services grew and their prices fell.

Alternative functions include using mobile phones to download e-mail while travelling, or to find the closest French restaurant by browsing a World Wide Web-based information service. The idea would be to use the phone as a wireless modem by inserting a data card, then linking it to the subscriber's portable computer. To send or receive short, text-only messages, the phone can be used on its own, its screen acting like a pager.

Richard Jarvis — managing director of Vodata, the Vodafone division responsible for providing all services beyond basic voice telephony on the operator's network — says: "It's not that mobile data doesn't work, it's just that there is a lack of applications. Notions that 50 per cent of traffic would be non-voice by 2000 is an absolute joke. I'd be amazed if non-voice traffic accounted for as many as 2 per cent of calls at the moment, although it might reach 5 per cent by the end of the century."

> 'Some 60 per cent of business people who talk about the Net actually just want e-mail'

He adds: "There has been too much hype. Add Internet to the mobile data marketing mix and it sounds like a winner, but it's a mismatch. Modern modems on a fixed telephone line can run at speeds between 20kbit and 30kbit per second, whereas using a mobile phone to make a connection, you get a third of that speed at best [9.6kbit is specified in GSM], and you are paying four to five times the price for the call. It isn't practical for browsing. And 60 per cent of business people who talk about the Internet actually just want e-mail."

There are signs of progress, however. Mr Jarvis says that the short-message facility, integral to GSM phones, is "bigger than data and growing far faster, although this is hard to quantify. The great thing about messages is that you can pick them up when it suits you without having the phone ring at an inconvenient moment". He finds share prices a particularly popular short-message service.

Ken Blakeslee, chairman of the UK's Mobile Data Association, has global responsibility for developing mobile applications with manufacturer Nortel. He thinks the use of short messages will take off once handset design improves: "At the moment, typing a message using the shift key and a phone key pad is a nightmare."

Several larger-screen phones are due out soon, and next year Nortel will launch a handset whose whole side is a touch-sensitive screen. Users can choose which keypad layout they want from a simple menu, so that if they want, say, a calculator, a number pad will appear on screen. To send a message, a standard keyboard will come up, and so on.

Geoff Ellis, project manager, telecommunications, at Price Waterhouse, supports 7,000 mobile workers who access central databases, send e-mail and so on from wherever they are working, be it the UK, the Continent or anywhere else with a GSM network. "Transmission speed might only be 9.6kbit per second, but at least it is virtually guaranteed and quicker than struggling for an hour to get a connection."

He adds that using a mobile phone "is cheaper than using a hotel phone line and a modem in at least ten European countries". On the downside, he thinks that, for now, mobile data will remain the province of large companies with big IT resources because research about which equipment really works with which software and so on is more complex than it should be.

Nortel's Mr Blakeslee agrees: "Lots of the fundamentals are in place, but things are just not flowing yet. They will soon, because business will demand it. Businesses are moving more and more towards reliance on intranets, and employees will need access to core information provided via intranets wherever they are. This is being compounded by more people being out of the office for longer periods of time."

A double-glazing salesman shows customers on screen how their house could look

On a screen near you

Road warriors is the hi-tech term coined for those who have discovered that the longer they stay out of the office, the more work they can get done. Far from gossiping colleagues and safe from the clutches of the company coffee machine, this nomadic clan is reaping the benefits of mobile technology.

Among those benefiting from the latest innovations in hand-held technology are double-glazing salesmen. Handicapped for years by their reputation for spending hours with customers before producing a final quote, salesmen have seen their way of working improve dramatically.

Newly kitted out with a laptop and a printer, this updated breed can show you on screen exactly what your house would look like with different window designs.

A pilot scheme at Caradon Everest has proved so successful that by the end of this year, 100 members of the sales force will be sent out armed with a laptop and printer. Using Shiva's LanRover remote access servers and software developed by Miller Management, the software and information technology consultancy, all the information from the salesman's laptop goes straight back to Everest head office, and the salesman can pick up new inquiries at the same time.

According to Bob Southward, IT manager at Everest: "There was a great deal of cynicism among the salesmen that the guys in IT could contribute to sales, but it has worked. There has been a significant reduction in the number of cancellations, and the increase in sales has been substantial. It gives the salesmen much more credibility with the customers."

Via their laptops, Everest salesmen, who spend an average of two hours with each customer, have access to a vast picture library. Whether the customers live in a Georgian or a Victorian house and want leaded or non-leaded windows, they will be able to see at a glance exactly what they are buying. Used as a pricing tool, the computers enable salesmen to close a deal on site.

The ordering process has also been speeded up so that customers receive a printout of the contract at the end of a consultation. For posterity's sake, the old TV advertisements featuring Ted Moult have been captured on the mobile multi-media equipment.

Colin Peto, divisional sales manager at Everest, was one of the first to use the hi-tech equipment in the field. "It gives the salesman an expanded brain," he says. "Pricing windows is not as simple as people think. There are so many different designs and options that it's hard for salesmen to remember them.

"The beauty of the technology is that the customer regards it as a reliable source of information."

MORAG PRESTON

FreeHand. Cellular Headset

"Sounds so clear people will think you're calling from the office."

For more information call

0800 410014

PLANTRONICS FREE

NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

TODAY'S notebook computers can do almost everything a desktop machine can, in a format smaller and lighter than a phone book.

Don't look on them as portable computers, however. Short battery life makes access to a power supply essential, and colour screens are washed out in bright sun, so working out on the patio is not an option. But executives and engineers who travel to offices, factories or construction sites find the ability to take their own computer — set up the way they like it and carrying the software they need — is invaluable.

The downside is that a sales team assembling at the airport looks like a Victorian expedition to Africa, laden with bags of every conceivable shape and size. Those who need portable computer power to gather information rather than disseminate it, travel much lighter.

Some estate agents, for example, tote notebook computers to houses they are surveying. A laser-based "digital tape measure" records the room dimensions, and the pictures are taken with a digital camera. Type in the blurb ("stone's throw from station, extensive but manageable gardens") and the whole brochure could, in theory, be complete and approved by the clients in one visit. Maintenance engineers are increasingly taking notebook computers with built-in CD-rom players on site visits, with data that would otherwise occupy a multi-volume manual, and have the benefit of computer-assisted diagnosis.

Reuters, the news network, issues notebook computers to sales staff, managers, journalists and corporate trainers. Journalists use Ascentia notebooks from AST Computer to write stories and file them using GSM digital mobile phones.

Many observers believe it is only a matter of time before notebook computers take over from desktop models entirely. When screen technology gives notebooks the same sort of brightness and contrast as cathode-ray tube monitors, many an executive will prefer a computer that can be folded up and put out of the way. Then the domination of the notebook computer will be complete.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

IS IT SAFE TO TALK?

The world's first low radiation mobile phone

The Hagenuk Global Handy is the only GSM mobile phone with no external antenna.

Instead, our patented planar power antenna operates safely and efficiently from inside that beautiful curvaceous body.

Its unique design means virtually all radio frequency energy is directed away from the user's head.

RF power creates heat which is measurable. Although the long term effects of RF radiation are still under investigation, the issue is understandably causing concern amongst the users of mobile phones.

So it's reassuring to know that Hagenuk's internal directional antenna not only shields you from direct RF power absorption, it's a much neater device altogether.

And it locks onto a signal with incredible German efficiency.

Hagenuk Telecom UK

When speed is of the essence

Sue Spenceley Burch reports on how the new technology is helping the emergency services

Stephen Price, general manager of Thamesdoc, with a Cognito quick response car

Mobile data communications are rapidly replacing hand-portable radio for communicating with workers in the field. New technology is reducing response times for organisations ranging from emergency doctors and medical-equipment maintenance staff, to ticket inspectors on buses and recovery garages working for the Automobile Association.

Independent garages handle 200 to 300 jobs each day from organisations such as the AA. Until recently, communication took place by telephone, fax or private mobile radio (PMR). Colin Bailey, managing director of independent garage South Bank Recovery, says: "When we contacted drivers over the PMR system, they had to pull over and take down the job details by hand. In central London this could take as much as ten minutes."

Now the AA is using the Turbo Dispatch system from Motor Trade Software (MTS), operating over the RAM public wireless data network, to simplify and speed up the process.

When the AA receives a job, the details are entered onto its command and control system and the job is allocated to a garage via the RAM network. When the garage receives the job, an audible tone sounds on the PC and information such as job number, AA member's name, registration number, vehicle and fault type appear on screen.

The garage accepts the job by RAM and the AA controller's screen changes colour to reflect the changed job status. The garage then transmits the job information over RAM to a mobile data terminal in the recovery vehicle. As the driver accepts the job, the colour of the job status alters on the garage's PC. Information about the job status is transmitted back to the garage as necessary and, when it is complete, the driver sends fault information, mileage and job result back to the garage for invoicing to the AA.

Some garages estimate that at peak times job capacity can be increased by as much as 30 per cent. Mr Bailey says: "Dispatch time is down to two or three seconds, a saving of four hours a day for each dispatcher, let alone the time savings for each driver."

Bill Diegutis, the AA's manager for agency services, says: "The system eliminates any inaccuracies and misunderstandings that can occur with voice communications."

RAM is one of three mobile data communications operators in Britain providing packet-switched networks — the others are Cognito and Paknet. The networks differ from circuit-switched networks such as GSM, which need a dedicated channel for communication. While that channel is being used, no other user can access it.

Packet-switched networks break the data into sections, or packets, that travel independently across the network. The signal is relayed via stations, like radio or television signals, rather than via a cellular network. Packet-switching allows multiple users to access the same channel and avoid network congestion. It also enables RAM to charge only for the data transmitted, not for connection time.

GSM, the digital mobile telephone system, also provides data transmission via its short message system (SMS), which shares the network with its voice services. RAM claims that by dedicating its network to short and frequent data exchange, it can support more users and transmit data faster. GSM gives priority to voice transmission, which means messages could be delayed at peak voice-use times.

Mobile data communications are also being used to contact doctors on-call. Thamesdoc, a co-operative of GPs formed three years ago, uses Cognito's hand-held Messagers. Details are taken from patients by a telephonist and are sent to the doctor over Cognito's network. Information on the patient's name, address, age and symptoms arrive in seconds. The telephonist can see when the message has been read and the doctor replies with the action taken. As the doctor's reply leaves the Messager, the patient's own GP can be faxed with details of the visit.

Cognito charges Thamesdoc a fixed monthly fee, making it possible to budget in advance. Stephen Price, Thamesdoc's general manager, says: "We invested £20,000 in the Cognito system, but I am convinced that savings will be apparent within the first month."

Dedicated mobile data services such as RAM and Cognito are ideal for larger users, who can afford to invest in specialised equipment. Jonathan Morgan-Jones, researcher at the Telecom Managers Association, predicts new developments will soon bridge the gap for smaller organisations.

"Users want integrated equipment, providing both voice and data communications — such as the Nokia 9000. In the next year we will see the arrival of even smarter mobile phones, currently being developed by manufacturers such as Motorola.

"These are likely to use new browser software called HDML (handheld devices markup language), a variant of HTML, the language used to create Web pages. This effectively provides page information onto the mobile-phone screen and could well be the future for large and small operations alike."

PALMTOP DIVERSITY

THE first pocket computer was, arguably, the HP-35 from Hewlett-Packard, launched 25 years ago. Although really a glorified calculator, it could run simple programs.

The design aim was simple — to enable engineers to use computer power exactly where and as needed. The idea came from HP cofounder William Hewlett himself, who said: "You ought to be able to put it in your pocket and attend a meeting without having to haul out something that isn't convenient."

Since then, designers have been developing more powerful computers in smaller packages, though the final aim, a fully functional personal computer that will fit in your pocket, is still a long way off.

There is a huge variety to choose from. Market leader Psion has gone for the miniature computer variety in its latest model, the Series 5, launched last month. Psion's main rival is Windows from Microsoft. Files are readily transferable from a Windows CE palmtop to the desktop. Hewlett-Packard, Philips, Casio and others now sell Windows CE palmtops, but lack some of the Psion's capabilities.

Palmtops in the form of tablets with touch-sensitive screens are probably the easiest to use on the move. Apple's Newton, able to recognise handwriting, got a bad press on its launch, but is now much better.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

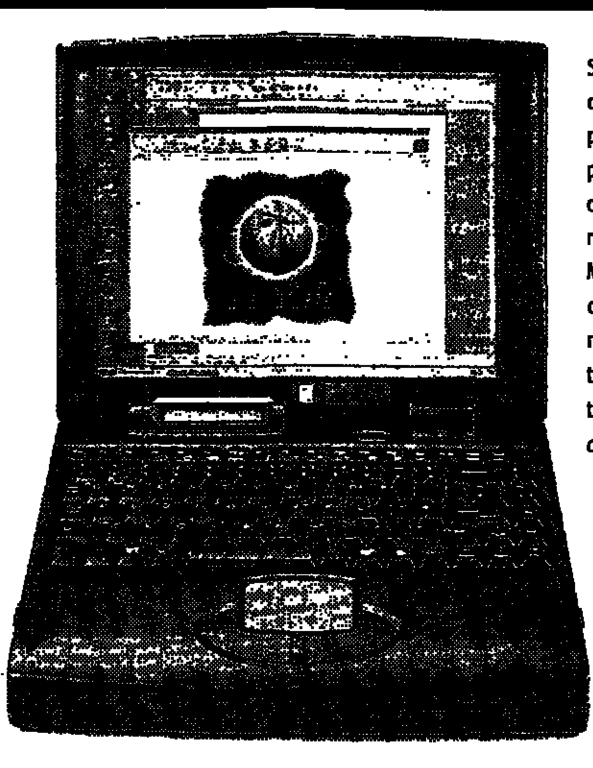
JOIN THE BEST TEAM THERE IS

SALES CONSULTANTS
(Experience Not Essential)

We are currently recruiting ambitious people to join our already successful sales team in the Yeovil area. Sales experience is not essential as our initial product & Sales Training Course with ongoing field sales training ensures your earning potential is maximised and because of our nationwide expansion programme,
THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL PROMOTION PROSPECTS.
If you are over 21, a car owner and have a home telephone all you have to do to arrange a local interview is pick up the phone between 9am-7pm Mon-Fri or 9am-noon Sat and call free on 0800 289858.

Everest FIT THE BEST

Summer Special



Summertime, and PC-users are on the move. Now, when you probably have most need of a powerful portable, Hi-Grade offers you one at a price to make your mouth water. The Mvi 166 belongs to our celebrated Notino range of multimedia notebooks. Call today for more details about them or our equally desirable desktops and servers.

intel inside pentium

Notino Mvi 166

- Intel Pentium® 166MHz processor (upgradable to 200MHz MMX)
- 16Mb EDO RAM (exp. to 72Mb)
- 1.4Gb 2.5" removable hard disk
- 11-speed CD-ROM drive
- 12.1" dual scan colour LCD display (TFT opt.)
- 16-bit sound card, speakers.

£1,249 (+ VAT = £1,467.58)

Delivery £13 (+VAT = £15.28) Prices and specifications may be changed without notice. Intel, Intel Inside and Pentium are trademarks of the Intel Corp., Windows 95 of Microsoft Corp

Hi-Grade
Technology with a human face
0800 074 0401
Branch offices:
Southampton : 01703 315151
Manchester: 0161 777 9010
Hi-Grade Computers plc
43 Thames Road Barking, Essex IG11 0HQ
Fax: 0181 532 6110
E-mail: sales@higrade.com
Web site: http://www.higrade.com

Working on the move...
Using Data over Cellular, Satellite, Radio and Infra-Red networks

- How can mobile data help your business?
- Which systems are available?
- What is the best technology for you?
- What are the risks and rewards?

You'll find the answer to all these questions and more at Mobile Data Comms 97, the only UK exhibition dedicated to business users of mobile data.

Discover how mobile data solutions can benefit you
Already many different organisations are harnessing the power of mobile data communications to improve control of a range of off-site activities, from research, marketing and sales to logistics, distribution, services and field operations. By providing information wherever and whenever it is needed mobile data comms is proving it can reduce cost, improve performance and provide smarter ways to work.

Exhibition highlights
Mobile Data Comms 97 is designed with the business user in mind, focusing on real solutions and business benefits.
- Free introductory seminars taking you through the maze of mobile data comms options
- Free advice at the Advice Centre manned by members of the Mobile Data Association
- Exhibition Product Trails – guiding you to the vendors who meet your needs
- All the leading suppliers including: 3Com US Robotics; ACS; ASK Communications; Attachmate; BT; Casio; Cellnet; Cognito; Compaq; Dell; Ericsson; GMSI; IBM UK; Intel GmbH; Intellinet; Minor Planet; Mobile Radio; Nokia Mobile Phones; Olivetti Personal Computers UK; Orange; Psion Dacom; Ram Mobile Data; Security Dynamics; Shiva; Signature Industries; Simac Techniq; Targus; Telepartner; Three X Communication; Vodafone; Xcellnet; Xircom.

If you need access to corporate information anytime from anywhere then you need to be at Mobile Data Comms 97. Call the Ticket Hotline +44 (0)1203 426484
http://www.mobiledatacomms.com

EARLS COURT 2, LONDON 30th SEPT - 2nd OCT 1997

Reed Exhibition Companies
Delivering Business Contacts
in association with COMPUTER WEEKLY mda

Register Now for FREE ENTRY to Mobile Data Comms 97 A D

☐ Yes please send me ____ FREE tickets ☐ Yes please send me details on the Mobile Data Comms Conference

Name ____ Company ____
Job Title ____
Address ____ Postcode ____
Fax ____
Tel ____
Email ____

PLEASE FAX COUPON TO +44 (0)1203 426490
Or post coupon to Mobile Data Comms 97 Registration CDS, Data House, Curriers Close, Tile Hill, Coventry, CV4 8AW, UK.

TRY THE EASIEST-TO-USE PROJECTORS TWO DAY TRIAL*

Getting up in front of a group of people just got easier—thanks to market-leading In Focus® projectors. They're the easiest to connect. The easiest to use. And with available DLP™ technology, the graphics are even the easiest to see. In Focus projectors. The easiest way to get your point across. Brilliantly.

InFocus®

DLP

Bargains of the week: a fortnight in Jamaica for £349, self-catering in Tuscany for £299, Dover-Calais from £49

HOLIDAYS

GRECIAN Splendour Cruises departing on Monday for a week aboard the *Costa Classica* are available from £520 from Page & Moy including connecting flights. Details: 0116-250 7722.

■ KOS for £399 a person for a fortnight's First Choice self-catering holiday with a flight from Manchester on Wednesday is on offer from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0541 500388.

■ MALTA for a fortnight's self-catering holiday with a flight from Stansted on July 31 will cost £266 a person from Advantage Travel Centres. Details: 0990 881888.

■ GRAN DORADA's holiday village at Heilbachsee is available for breaks coinciding with the Rhine in Flames Festival on August 9. Three nights for two adults and two children, including ferries and self-catering, costs from £350. Details: 01242 255000.

■ HORSERIDING, with a guide, in the Corbières hills of southern France from one farmhouse to another is available from Inntravel for a week from August 10, including a flight from Gatwick. Price: £863 a person, with half-board. Details: 01653 628862.

■ BANGKOK for five nights for £439 a person with a non-stop flight from Heathrow is on offer from Qantas Holidays from August 10. Add a week in Phuket for an extra £180. Details: 0990 673464.

■ TUSCANY or Umbria for £299 a person for a week's self-catering with flights from Gatwick on August 23 and 30 is available from Impulse Holidays. Price based on two sharing and includes car hire. Details: 0181-741 9007.

■ BUNKHOUSE accommodation for three nights in a converted stable and loft in Langwathby in Cumbria, plus full breakfast, is available from £39 a person. Details: 01768 881881.

■ JAMAICA for a fortnight from £349 a person with room-only accommodation and a flight from Newcastle on August 14 is on offer from Going Places. Details: 01483 771144.

FERRIES

SWANSEA Cork Ferries has introduced a special midweek fare. The £298 return, for a car and five adults, is available until August 18 on any day except Friday or Saturday. Details: 01792 456116.

■ P&O FERRIES has new three-day return tickets available on routes from Dover to Calais and from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg. A return costs £59 (with a free bottle of wine) for a car and two passengers. Valid until September 12 for travel by September 14. Details: 0990 980980.

■ IRISH FERRIES is selling £119 one-way Pembroke-Rosslare tickets for a car and five adults until August 31. The fare is for midweek crossings at night. Fares rise to £159 at weekends. Details: 0990 171717.

■ THE lowest offer on Dover-Calais available for this summer closes on Saturday. Sea France has returns from £49, rising to £95 at peak periods for a car and up to nine passengers. Book by Saturday for travel by August 30. Details: 0990 711711.

KIRKER HOLIDAYS is offering a £150 saving to *Times* readers who want to visit the Hacienda de San Rafael in Andalucia next month. The new price of £652 a person includes return flights from Heathrow, accommodation and all meals for five days, plus car hire and sherry-tasting in Jerez. Details: 0171-231 3333.

FLIGHTS

LOWER transatlantic fares have been announced for next September. The Travel Bug has British Airways return flights to New York from Manchester, London and Birmingham for £219. Flights to Los Angeles and San Francisco (from London only) are available for £345. Details: 0990 737747.

■ BUSINESS-CLASS passengers flying to New York from Gatwick, Manchester or Birmingham with Continental can take a companion for £99 return. Details: 01293 776464.

■ TRAILFINDERS has a £374 return fare to Bangkok, flying with Olympic via Athens. Details: 0171-938 3939.

■ VIRGIN Atlantic flights to Johannesburg cost £412 return, including tax, if purchased by Friday. Travel before September 30. Details from Air Tickets Direct: 0990 320321.

■ EXTRA weekend flights between Gatwick and Lisbon have been added by AB Airlines. Excursion fares start at £114. Details: 0345 464748.

HOTELS

DISCOUNTS of 30 per cent of normal rates are available at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane until September 1. Rooms start at £188 a night. Details: 0171-499 6363.

■ HILTON HOTELS in the UK has a three-nights-for-two offer for guests on a Hilton Weekend Break until October 1. The offer also includes deals on dining within the hotel. Please quote reference FY. Details: 0800-8568000.

■ USE OF the rooftop swimming pool is included in the summer rate at the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge of £110 a person a night, based on double occupancy. Details: 0171-235 6000.

■ THE Hotel Londre Palace in Venice has a special rate, of about £174 a night until the end of August. The offer (minimum three nights), through Prima Hotels, includes a canal boat pass and 20 per cent off meals in the hotel. Details: 0800 181535.

■ THE Gleneagles golfing hotel has accommodation available for certain dates in August at £205 a night, a savings of £45 on normal rates. Details: 0800-704705.

■ THE stylish Halkin Hotel just off Belgrave Square in London has a reduction to £240 a room for one night, including English breakfast. The offer, based on a minimum stay of two nights, is available until the end of August. Details: 0171-333 1000.

■ MIDDLETHORPE Hall in York has a special rate of £80 a person for one night, including breakfast and dinner in the hotel's restaurant, which was recently awarded three rosettes by the AA. Offer available until August 17. Details: 01904 641241.

■ THE Goring Hotel in central London and the 900-year old Amberley Castle in West Sussex have put together a Town and Country package offering savings of 15 per cent on normal rates. The offer covers a minimum of two weekday nights at Amberley Castle and two weekend nights at the Goring. Details: 01798-831992 (Amberley) or 0171-396 9000 (Goring).

CHECK-IN

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 1989

FAX: 0171 782 7824

NILE CRUISE July - Sept Full Board 7 night Cruise inc Excursions fr £369pp

CARIBBEAN Clubs International clubs fr £949pp All inclusive 14 nts Aug-Nov dept. 0171 408 4416

NEW YORK INC. 2 NTS HOTEL & FLT fr £299pp

CONNECTIONS THE TRAVEL PEOPLE

NEW YORK	£189	BOSTON	£219	SEOUL/TOKYO	£469	THAILAND/INDIA	£299
WASHINGTON	£245	DENVER	£285	JO'BURG/HARARE	£329	K. LUMPUR/S'PORE	£370
SEATTLE	£285	MEXICO	£269	DUBAI/BAHRAIN	£249	HONG KONG	£399
CALIFORNIA	£275	CARIBBEAN	£269	EGYPT	£149	MORE DEST. AVAILABLE!!	

AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS DEPARTURES £699 Current flights from only £549pp

CANADA FLIGHTS Toronto 219 Montreal 269 Calgary 329 Vancouver 319 BREAKS Including 3 nts hotel Montreal, Toronto/Niagara £299pp Call for our brochure

UK - BANGKOK - HONG KONG - RTN £459 - UK - SINGAPORE - BALI - RTN £599 - UK - MIAMI - LA - NEW YORK - RTN £299 - LOW SEASON EARLY BUYER PRICES
AMERICAS 0171 495 5010 • WORLDWIDE 0171 495 5545 • EUROPE 0171 408 4405 • FAX (+44) 171 408 4450
BUY DIRECT AND SAVE ££££'S ON FLIGHTS • HOTELS • CARS • WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS • 93 WIMPOLE STREET LONDON W1 • ATOL 3369 • IATA • www.connect2-uk.net • Low season early buyer prices

★ STA TRAVEL ★ WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

rtn fr		Conditions vary on these student and non-student, quality airline, scheduled flights. Tax excl.				rtn fr	
Paris Eurostar	£59	Copenhagen	£89	Toronto	£216	Johannesburg	£379
Amsterdam	£65	Athens	£126	Bangkok	£355	Buenos Aires	£552
Dublin	£56	New York	£168	Singapore	£399	Rio de Janeiro	£485
Geneva	£96	Washington	£170	Hong Kong	£499	Perth	£550
Munich	£89	Los Angeles	£258	Bali	£499	Sydney	£599

PRAGUE return from £125 plus accommodation from £8pppn Travel in both directions Monday - Thursday
EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262, EUROSTAR: 0171 361 6143
ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160
117 Euston Road NW1, 86 Old Brompton Rd SW7, 11 Goodge St W1, London.
http://www.statravel.co.uk
LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, NEWCASTLE, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON STA TRAVEL

Worldwide Car Rental Within Your budget!
USA £79 | SPAIN £99 | CANADA £147 | PORTUGAL £109 | FRANCE £159 | ITALY £169
Call us now we are Open 7 days a week 01923 850085

TRAILFINDERS THE TRAVEL EXPERTS
More than just low cost flights worldwide
WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE
Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service
LONDON Longhaul: 0171-938 3939
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234
BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide. 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

FLIGHTSEATS All European & worldwide flights available. Inexpensive Car Hire Available. ABTA members for 18 years. 0990 239904

MAJOR USA MAJOR TRAVEL offer great value on low cost flights to all destinations in the USA, with the leading scheduled airlines. Car hire, hotels and tours available. RESERVATIONS 0171 485 7017

WORLDWIDE ALPHA TRAVEL LTD All fares subject to availability excluding tax. 0171 247 8886 FAX: 0171 247 9501

Monument Travel 01476 404747

WORLDWIDE RETURN PRICES FROM
SYDNEY £599 AUCKLAND £649
PERTH £599 SINGAPORE £411
BANGKOK £356 TOKYO £499
BALI £469 DELHI £322
MEXICO £382 RIO £499
PRAGUE £183 WARSAW £159
FOR THE BEST FARES & STOPOVERS CALL TODAY
0161 272 8433 LONG HAUL
0161 272 8455 USA, CANADA, EUROPE
DELTA TRAVEL

MAJOR WORLD SEPT DEPS.

	FLT ONLY	CAR HIRE
GENEVA	115	155
NICE	146	150
PRAGUE	159	197
NEW YORK	229	201
BOSTON	229	159
CHICAGO	280	168
LOS ANGELES	329	152
TORONTO	280	185
MEXICO	355	275
RIO	490	-
JOHANNESBURG	368	197
CAPE TOWN	369	197

0171 485 7017 SERVING YOU, THE TRAVELLER, SINCE 1974.

JETLINE 0171 360 1111

FARESAVERS 01476 592095

inter MANY OTHER DESTINATIONS AVAILABLE TEL: 0171 630 5188 Ext 25 FAX: 0171 233 9141

NOW...GIVE US A CALL! NWT TRAVEL 0171 402 4044

Travel DREAMS FAR & AWAY 0181 795 3180

PRICE CHECK 01476 565055

AIRLINK Worldwide 0171-713-7770

BUDGET FLIGHTS 01920 484007

AIRLINE NETWORK USA & WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS 017 72 72 72 72 AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 01772 727 727

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND SPECIALS with SINGAPORE AIRLINES AUSTRALIA fr £678 NEW ZEALAND fr £788 deps 01 Aug - 30 Nov

KENYA SPECIALISTS For Tailormade Safaris, Exotic Beaches or just Flights. Video Brochure Available 0181 840 8881 FULLY BONDED - ATOL 3515

WORLDWIDE FLIGHT PRICES FROM CAPRICORN TRAVEL 0171 730 6216

FARESAVERS 01273 626242

USA CANADA STATESAVERS 0990 133 343

FLIGHT CENTRE WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS 0181 669 8607

CAR HIRE SKYCARS 01923 835317

ICARUS FLIGHTS 01476 514666

FLIGHTWISE CHEAPEST FLIGHTS FROM ALL UK AIRPORTS 01476 560089

Jetworld 01273 277877

JUST AMERICA Tauck Tours Motorhomes SAVE UP TO £200 01730 266588

benz NEW YORK £199 HONG KONG £390 0171 462 0000

Charter FLIGHT CENTRE CAR HIRE 10% OFF SUMMER BOOKINGS 0171 565 6804

EUROPEAN / WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS SEAGULL TRAVELS 0171 625 7660

THE TRAVEL MARKET

TRAVEL Insurance We will not be beaten on price! 0990 133218 7 days

Unbeatable Worldwide Fares! TRAVELPLANNERS Service Beyond the Call™

•WORLDWIDE•		•WORLDWIDE•		•USA/CANADA•	
AUCKLAND	£715	HONG KONG	£485	FLORIDA	£265
BALI	£595	JOHANNESBURG	£359	LOS ANGELES	£275
BANGKOK	£439	NAIROBI	£435	LAS VEGAS	£275
CAIRNS	£715	PERTH	£655	NEW YORK	£195
CAPE TOWN	£555	SINGAPORE	£495	SAN FRANCISCO	£275
FIJI	£695	SYDNEY	£715	TORONTO	£255

PLUS MANY MORE
Prices from London are low season return (excl taxes) Conditions and regional supplements apply
Open Monday to Friday until 8pm. Sat & Sun 5.30pm. BROCHURE HOTLINE 0990 338 338 FAX: 0181 559 7722
LONDON 0181 506 5024 MANCHESTER 0990 280 028 GLASGOW 0990 280 000
AUSTRALIA from £715 RETURN Includes 1 stop over-in each direction and 1 internal flight in Australia. Conditions and supplements apply.
FREE Annual Travel Insurance When you book 7 days all inclusive car hire on all Fly-Drive packages to the USA. Min. 2 people in a 1C car or above. Conditions apply.
Officially approved by QANTAS
Fly from your local airport - prices & information on request. ABTA V8092 ATOL 4106
ONE STOP SHOP - Car Hire, Accommodation and Insurance

Long air delays likely this summer

By Harvey Elliott

HOLIDAYMAKERS returning from Scandinavia, the Low Countries and the east Mediterranean face long delays this summer, because a vital air corridor over southern England has reached saturation point.

A sudden increase in the number of airlines now flying into regional airports such as Stansted, Norwich, Luton and London City, and a surge in the number of flights to Amsterdam, Brussels and cities throughout Eastern Europe, took the Civil Aviation Authority by surprise and overwhelmed controllers guiding flights over Essex.

As a result, the four controllers and one supervisor at the West Drayton Air Traffic Control Centre, who normally staff the radars covering the Clacton area, have to instruct pilots to "stack" at Lambourne near Romford in Essex, until they can be channelled towards their final destination.

The main air routes from the East and North East are funnelled towards Clacton, which is one of about half a dozen air "doorways" leading to the key airports in London.

Later in the summer, the CAA plans to split the sector in two, enabling some jets to be sent through new air corridors towards Stansted and Luton while others continue to fly the existing routes towards Gatwick and Heathrow.

The problems at Clacton — which some controllers have described as being similar to traffic jams on the London-approach side of the M40 — are in danger of spoiling the CAA's record for reducing delays while handling more flights.

In the peak summer period from July to September last year, the average delay to all flights handled by the London Air Traffic Control Centre was one and a quarter minutes. But at least 12 per cent of flights are delayed by half an hour or more.

Many delays are, however, caused by a range of problems, including bad weather, industrial action, security hold-ups and passengers going missing after their bags have been loaded.

Britain sails into a windfall

Seafaring events from Tall Ships Races to Cowes Week are boosting tourism, reports Ronald Gribble

SAILING is bringing a multi-million pound windfall to Britain's tourist industry. As the first leg of the 25th Cutty Sark Tall Ships' Races finished in Norway yesterday, Aberdeen, where the races began last week, was predicting a profit of £12 million after the ships attracted an estimated 650,000 people to the city.

The races are one of three big sailing events this year to benefit British tourism. Crowds drawn by the current UK tour of the £8 million replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour* are also boosting seaside economies around the coast. At Whitby in North Yorkshire, *Endeavour* attracted one million visitors and earned the town £6 million. On Tuesday thousands will descend on the Isle of Wight for Cowes Week, bringing a spending boom to the island.

The Tall Ships' Races, organised by the International Sail Training Association and sponsored by Cutty Sark Scots Whisky, have attracted 120 ships from 15 countries from as far as the Baltic, involving 5,000 crew members.

Festival events during the ships' four-day stay in Aberdeen included an open-air concert with the Hallé Orchestra compered by Terry Wogan; a carnival parade which featured 200 Shetlanders dressed as Vikings; fireworks and displays by the Army, Marines and the RAF. As the ships set off across the bay in a parade of sail on the last day, they were saluted by a spray of Red Arrows.

John Ling, operations manager for the start of the race, said: "Accommodation in Aberdeen was completely full on the night of the race. Businesses involving tourism, travel and catering have seen a huge increase in their turnover. We feel confident that the total increase in trade in the north east of Scotland will not be less than £10 million and will probably reach £12 million."

This is a twelvefold increase on the £1 million Aberdeen made in 1991 when it last hosted the races.

En route to the start of the races, the Aberdeen-built schooner *Malcolm Miller* dropped anchor at Inverbervie to witness the unveiling of a £65,000 memorial at the hometown of Scotland's Hercules Linton, who designed the tea clipper *Cutty Sark*, now on display at Greenwich. The ship, which set speed records in bringing tea from China, gave its name to the whisky that sponsors the races.

The Tall Ships event brings together young people from around the world to race in friendly competition in sailing ships which range from nearly new vessels to some more than 100 years old, and differ in size from 30ft to 400ft in length.

The organisers encourage crews to change ships at ports, so if you are a Norwegian or a Swede you may find yourself on a Scottish or Russian ship for the next leg of the voyage.

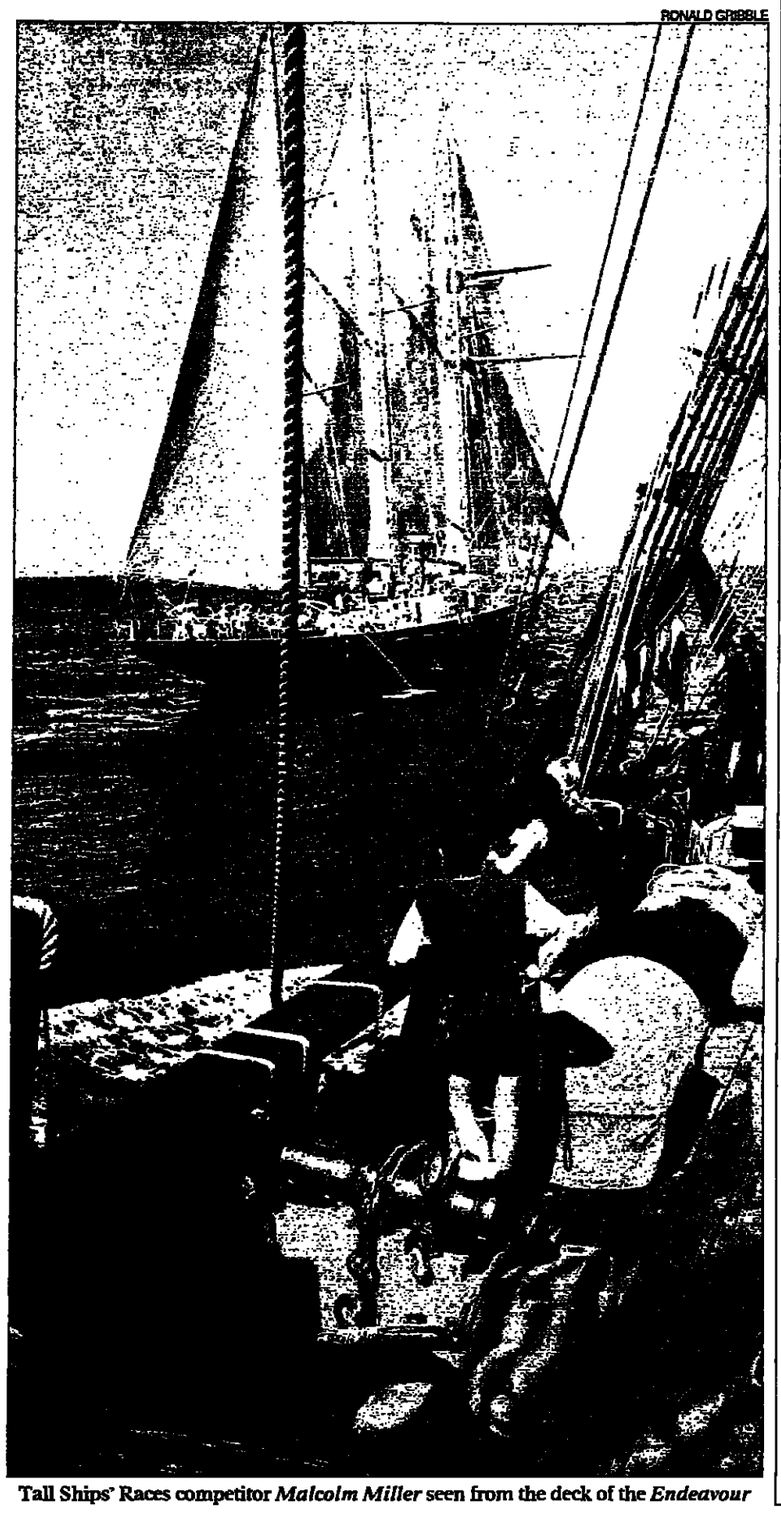
Besides the glory of being first to cross the finishing line at each stage of the races, the most coveted prize is the Cutty Sark Trophy — a solid silver model of the *Cutty Sark* — which is awarded to the ship's crew which has contributed most to international understanding and friendship.

The Tall Ships' arrival in Trondheim, just 150 miles short of the Arctic Circle and the furthest north the fleet has ever ventured, coincides with Norway's third largest city celebrating its one thousand years of existence.

On Saturday the fleet will cruise by the light of the midnight sun to Stavanger — the centre of Norway's oil industry — and then race the final leg to Gothenburg in Sweden, arriving by August 13 and staying for three days.

● On Saturday, having visited Scotland and the north of England, *Endeavour* arrives in Wales and will be on exhibition at **Fishguard** until August 3. After that she heads south for **Falmouth** (August 9-17), **Plymouth** (August 23-31), **Weymouth** (September 6-9), **Brighton** (September 13-21), **St Helier, Jersey** (September 27-October 5). *Endeavour* then leaves for **St Malo** (October 7-12) before returning to **Boston**, Lincolnshire (October 17-19) and then **Whitby** (October 21-26) for maintenance. She then goes to **Hull** (December 24-January 4) before her voyage to the United States.

RONALD GRIBBLE



Tall Ships' Races competitor *Malcolm Miller* seen from the deck of the *Endeavour*

Taxation is a greedy business

As airports fill, beaches are covered in basking bodies and millions who have saved for months finally relax on their summer holidays, it may seem churlish to point out the dark clouds on the horizon.

But the fact is that the taxation genie is now out of the bottle. And the damage being wreaked already by this creature of international politicians is about to become serious indeed.

From November 1, for example, Britain's air passenger duty will double to £10 on domestic and European flights and £20 on long-haul flights. The decision was taken by the previous Government and deliberately delayed to avoid this year's summer peak and to ensure that the new Government has to deal with the complaints that are bound to follow. However, all that will interest the millions of once-a-year travellers is that their holidays are about to cost a lot more.

> The airport tax genie is now out of the bottle

It is not just Britain's politicians who have become greedy. America's House of Representatives wants to increase departure tax from $6 (£3.50) to $31. Even the Senate has proposed a rise from $6 to $15 and a compromise rate is likely to be announced soon.

So next year a family of four flying to Orlando, for example, may have to find at least £100 more for British and American coffers.

The French are thinking of adding the equivalent of £5 to airport dues and the Spanish want to grab an extra £4. Hardly a country in the world has not set its sights on getting its hands on as much as it can.

And they can find all sorts of bogus reasons for doing so. Domestic air services in Norway, for example, are subject to up to 25 per cent tax on journeys where the railway is a competitor.

Russia is raising £140 million a year from European airlines by charging them £62 a passenger to fly through its airspace. In less than three years, Jakarta put its passenger charges up by 127 per cent, Beijing by 126 per cent and Montreal by 110 per cent.

Overall, says the World Travel and Tourism Council, 73 per cent of the world's leading cities have increased their taxes, 13.5 have remained unchanged and a further 13.5 have reduced them.

Greece discovered the hard way what damage these taxes can cause. Within months of a decision to introduce departure tax of about £16 a head, its tourism industry had almost collapsed, investment in new hotels came to a standstill and necessary refurbishments did not take place.

Yet the demand for holiday travel is still growing. Almost 16 million flights and holidays are covered by the CAA's Air Travel Organisers' Licences this summer. Every passenger is paying, on average, £386, 15 per cent more than last year

So will anyone really notice the odd £5, £10 or even £20 a head? Not if you are a wealthy traveller or a business executive with an expenses-paid fully flexible ticket — but certainly if you are one of the majority of holidaymakers who have to budget carefully.

Enjoy this year's strong pound and cheap holidays while you can. At least the sunshine is tax free.

Russian coup for UK operator

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Tsar Nicholas in captivity with his daughters in 1917

By Harvey Elliott

A SMALL British tour operator has obtained exclusive access to the Russian state archives, containing thousands of rarely seen documents and historic items. The collection, until now closed to the public, includes the personal diaries of Tsar Nicholas and his wife, Alexandra. The diaries are in English and reveal in graphic detail the development of the Russian revolution.

The archives also contain photograph albums and correspondence from the Tsar, George V, the Kaiser and Queen Victoria, as well as a collection of Hitler's personal effects and comprehensive documents about the fall of the Reich.

Nick Laing, managing director of the Wiltshire tour operator Steppes East which specialises in tailor-made visits to Russia and other former Eastern bloc countries, said yesterday: "We were contacted out of the blue by a South African who had obtained a contract with the director of the archive to allow people into the building to see the collection.

"It is astonishing. Only six people at a time are allowed in and they sit around the director's table while some of the most astonishing items are brought to them. You have to pinch yourself that you are not dreaming when you hold photograph albums and letters or personal items of clothing and jewellery which, under the Communists, were considered far too important to be seen by the public.

"We are the only tour operator in the Western world with the authority to take visitors to see the collection."

● *A tailored itinerary, including British Airways flights and transfers, three nights' BOB at the five-star Kempinski Hotel, a half-day sightseeing and entry to the archives with a translator costs from £1,485 a person booked through Steppes East.*

Tourism to France soars despite 'rude' reputation

By Harvey Elliott

THE British holidaymaker's roller-coaster love affair with France is on again this summer, fanned into life by the ten-franc pound.

Despite being told this week that they were regarded by the rest of the world as "chronically rude, aggressive, dirty, idle and disorganised", the French are preparing for record numbers of tourists.

The Paris Chamber of Commerce interviewed 800 visitors from 16 countries and had hoped to use their comments in a promotional campaign. Instead they were stunned by the strong language used by visitors who universally described the French as rude and arrogant.

Nonetheless, France is the world's favourite tourist destination and more than 63 million foreign visitors — including ten million from Britain — will stay there this year.

For British tour operators the increase in bookings is turning into a bonanza. John Harding, of Travelscene, said: "It doesn't take the British long to decide to go back to France once the conditions are right. Now that Le Shuttle and Eurostar are running smoothly, it is being recognised that it is easy to pop over to Boulogne or Paris for lunch."

Mike Bruce-Mitford, of VFB Holidays, said that he had "never experienced a more positive climate for large bookings".

The Caravan Club said that interest was "unprecedented"; Brittany Ferries reported a 71 per cent increase in gite bookings; Lunn Poly said that French citybreaks were up 45 per cent; Cresta has had a 60 per cent increase in self-drive holidays; Eurosites say this year families are splitting their time between beach and country, and Kirker Holidays says bookings to Paris have gone up by 157 per cent in the past month.

Tuscany, long a favourite destination for British tourists, is also proving irresistible this summer as the pound strengthens against the lira. *Christopher Warman writes.*

From the moment of boarding the bus from Florence airport to the city centre (£2.20), it is tempting to say "that's very reasonable". A meal for two, with two courses, two carafes of house wine, came to under £15, a strong encouragement not only to return, but (on a self-catering holiday) to eat out more often. Not many places can match it for value, but value for money is there for all to see throughout the whole range of restaurants.

The same applies at the supermarket, where drinkable wine is available from £1.50 a bottle, Campari £4.30, and food bills compare favourably with Sainsbury's. Petrol is one exception to the general rule of bargain prices, but it is not much dearer than in Britain.

Why home is sweeter

A NEW study says that international travelling executives find life away from home damaging to their health and marriage.

Many of the 500 people polled by the Hyatt Hotel group say they resent business travel. These "world wearies", as Hyatt describes them, complain of problems with ulcers, overeating and alcohol abuse. Executives say they have missed important events in their children's lives, anniversaries and birthdays.

Hyatt identified another group — the "torn travellers" — who experience similar problems, but secretly enjoy their lives as "road warriors". They viewed travel as a chance to escape the office. But they also tended to be younger and less senior than more world-weary business travellers.

Executive married women are less likely to rely on their husbands to look after the home while away. Usually another family member, friend, or hired help is asked to keep an eye on things.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

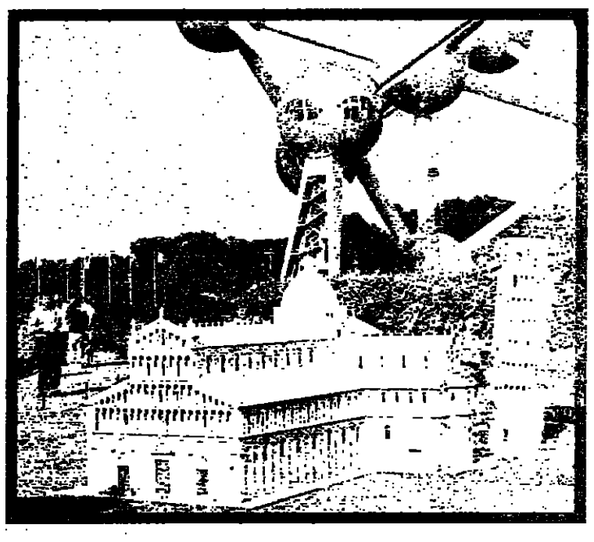
A two-night break in Brussels from just £59

● RETURN CHANNEL CROSSING BY LE SHUTTLE OR P&O FERRY

● TWO NIGHTS AT A THREE-STAR HOTEL

● FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO BOOK, CALL 01992 456157

Belgian TRAVEL SERVICE



Today *The Times* offers you a two-night city break in Brussels from as little as £59 per person. This special getaway package includes return Channel crossing by P&O ferry or Le Shuttle, based on four people sharing one car, for two nights bed and breakfast accommodation in a three-star hotel. The price for a car and two passengers is £72 per person. Extra nights will cost from £22 per person. The offer is valid from Aug 1 to September 30, 1997 (except Aug 22-25 incl). For stays in September, Fri-Sun only, there is a supplement of £10 per person per night. (Mid-week stays are not available in September.)

You can also travel by Eurostar in August and pay £99 per person. For stays in September Fri-Sun, there would be a supplement of £18 per person per night.

All you need to do is collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and telephone the booking line above to make your reservation. Tickets will be issued on receipt of your tokens and booking reference number. All bookings must be made by August 15.

The offer is subject to availability and the standard terms and conditions of Belgian Travel Service Ltd. This offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer. It excludes midweek stays, Mon-Thurs, in Brussels in September. One child aged 2-11 years sharing parents' room receives 33% discount. No family rooms are available. Single room supplement is £28 per person per night. Extra nights cost £22 in Aug, £32 per person in Sept Fri-Sun.

THE TIMES City Breaks

SEE TOMORROW'S *TIMES* FOR ALL OUR CITY BREAKS OFFERS

CHANGING TIMES

FOOTBALL

Fifa intervenes to break Ronaldo transfer deadlock

By Our Sports Staff

MASSIMO MORATTI, the Internazionale president, is to meet Barcelona officials in Zurich next Tuesday in a bid to resolve their transfer dispute over Ronaldo, the Brazil forward.

Fifa, the game's governing body, cleared the transfer on Tuesday, but said that Inter must pay more than the £18 million penalty clause in Ronaldo's contract. The clubs have until July 31 to agree, or Fifa will set a fee.

"There will be a meeting with Barcelona in Zurich, on neutral territory, on Tuesday, July 29," Moratti said as he emerged from an Italian league meeting in Milan. "The move is now settled, especially after the decision. The approval of the transfer is the most important thing. I feel much more relaxed now that a lot of things have been cleared up."

Inter's managing director, Luigi Predeval, added that the 20-year-old striker would arrive from Brazil tomorrow morning and undergo preliminary medical tests later in the day. Ronaldo is due to meet his new team-mates at their training ground on Saturday and make his debut, albeit a brief appearance, against Manchester United at the San Siro on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo has criticised Barcelona for demanding even more money than the £18 million paid to release him from his contract in Spain. "How can Barcelona justify asking for more money?" Ronaldo said. "When I signed my contract with Barcelona last year, it was because I knew that for four billion pesetas [around £18 million], I could leave. Now I want to know why that doesn't apply any more."

Juninho's move to Atlético Madrid has reaped an instant dividend for the former Middlesbrough player. He has been recalled to the Brazil squad for matches against South Korea and Japan next month. Juninho, 24, who recently made a £12.5 million switch to Spain, fell out of favour with Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, during the Olympic Games last summer and then during the FA Carling Premiership campaign last season, which ended in relegation. He subsequently sought a transfer to a leading Spanish club to rekindle his international prospects ahead of next year's World Cup and the move has paid off without Juninho even playing a competitive match for his new club.

"Juninho has a special style that can be vital for the team," Zagallo said. The coach sprang another surprise when he also included Sonny Anderson, the AS Monaco striker, in the party. Anderson, the French league's player of the year in the past two seasons, has been consistently overlooked by Zagallo, who has, in the past, preferred the impressive pairing of Ronaldo and Romario in attack.

However, Romario is injured and Zagallo, Anderson's coach when he played for Vasco da Gama, said he wanted to try out as many combinations as possible before the World Cup finals in France.

Eight players — including Celio Silva, the new Manchester United recruit — who were in the squad for Le Tournoi in France and the Copa America have been left out for the matches against South Korea in Seoul on August 10 and Japan in Osaka three days later.

Janusz Wojcik, the former Olympic coach, will be the new Poland national team coach, the Polish Soccer Association (PZPN) said yesterday. Wojcik, 44, takes over from Antoni Piechniczek, who resigned last month after a 2-0 home defeat by England that ended Poland's hopes of qualifying for the 1998 World Cup.

Brighton await verdict of Football League

BRIGHTON will learn today if they are to be expelled from the Football League. Brighton face the threat of expulsion at an extraordinary general meeting of Football League chairmen over a failure to lodge a £500,000 bond — requested to secure their status while groundsharing with another League club — by a June 20 deadline.

Steve Gritt, the manager, who insists he will resign if Brighton do leave the League, said: "Because of other matters, it has become harder for my players to concentrate on the football and be ready for the first game. There is the threat of expulsion and although I don't think it will come to that, we need to all start pulling in the same direction." If they survive, Brighton are likely to play their home matches at Gillingham this season.

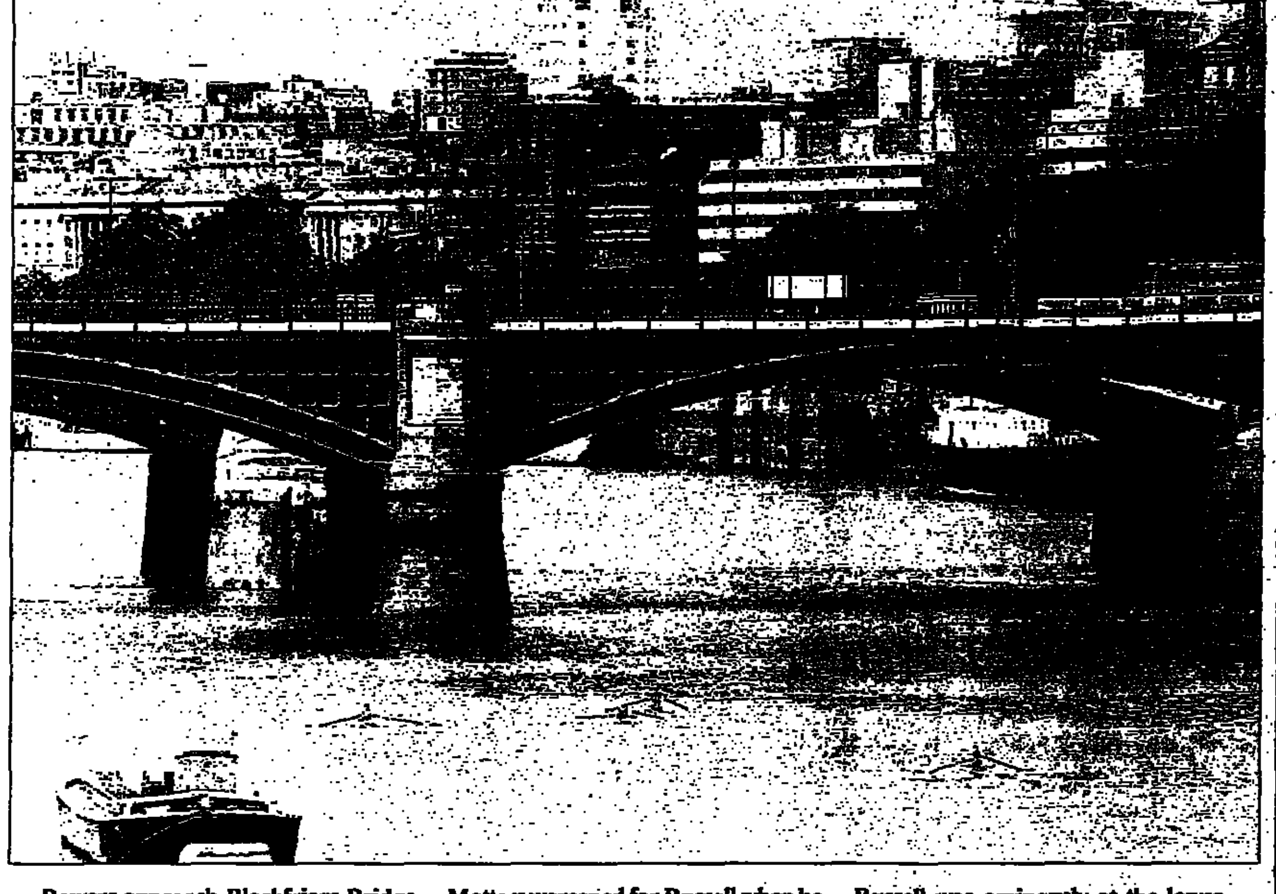
Allan McGraw, the Morton manager, has resigned from the Bell's Scottish League first division club. McGraw has been with Morton for 31 years as player, coach and manager, in addition to a spell in the mid-1960s when he was a striker with Hibernian.

He broke the news to his players at lunchtime yesterday and then said: "I do not want to go into details, but the internal politics at this club have made it impossible to manage."

Morton have been surrounded by takeover rumours and suggestions of dissension in the boardroom for several months. Peter Cormack, the assistant manager, recently resigned in a cost-saving move.

Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, will sit out the start of the FA Carling Premiership campaign after an operation to a groin injury.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Rowers approach Blackfriars Bridge in the 283rd Doggett's Coat and Badge race, which fully lived up to forecasts that the competition yesterday would be the keenest for many years. A further prediction by George Saunders, the licensing and training officer of the Watermen's Company, that Mike Russell, from Gravesend, was marginally the favourite of the six Watermen involved — seemed less secure when Nick Howard, also of Gravesend, led from the start. Matters worsened for Russell when he caught his blade on Cannon Street railway bridge, the first of the 11 bridges to be negotiated over the five miles from London Bridge to Chelsea. Howard was still leading at Southwark Bridge, but Russell had recovered well and only three lengths covered the top five men, David Reed having been a casualty of the fast pace. At Blackfriars, Howard and Russell were prominent, but Howard's steering was becoming a little suspect and Russell was ominously at the lower, steadier rate. By Waterloo Bridge, Russell was clear and, by Hungerford Bridge, Lenny Saunders, of Felixstowe, had moved into second place. Approaching the finish, Matthew Mays, a rough but tough sculler, also overtook Howard, who placed last of the four finishers, Russell having fully vindicated a comment overheard from a former winner, adorned in his red livery, that "whoever leads under Westmister wins".

GOLF: SENIORS' TOUR PUTS SPRING IN STEP OF PROFESSIONAL NEWCOMER

Open ready for Wild celebration

By Patricia Davies

BRIAN BARNES, the defending champion, will be trying to limp to a third consecutive title when the Senior British Open Championship starts at Royal Portrush today. John Bland, the runner-up in the US Senior Open last month, is the bookmakers' favourite to win the event with odds of 5-2. Steve Wild is just happy to be playing at all on the rugged Antrim coast.

It might be an exaggeration to call Wild the new sensation of the PGA European Seniors' Tour, but the Staffordshire man, an amateur until he turned 50 last October, has been a revelation. In Sweden last month, he finished second in the Manadans Affarer Seniors' tournament, only succumbing to Noel Ratcliffe, a stringy Australian who won the Belgian Open and the Benson and Hedges International in a previous existence, over the final five holes.

Wild, who is eighteenth on the money-list with winnings of £12,616, combines golf with his business as an industrial painting contractor, which he runs with the help of Chris, his wife. "She makes me feel humble," Wild said, "and I couldn't think about doing this unless she was 100 per cent behind me."

Wild had no real track record as an amateur, other than as a steady county player who played for Staffordshire more than 150 times. He was usually too busy to play in the big events, although in one English Amateur championship he was reminded of his station — he started a match with eight pars and found himself five down to a youngster called Sandy Lyle.

Wild, who is still a member at Trentham but represents Whittington Heath on tour, entered the professional ranks with a flourish. He finished in a tie for third place at the qualifying school in November and said the smile has not left his face since.

Described by a friend as "stand-up comic amusing", he is easy to like, but his not success is not borne of that affability. He is fit and hits the ball a long way, which are important factors in seniors' golf and should stand him in good stead this week, with the daunting Dunluce course playing at 6,672 yards.

He is not expected to win on his Open debut — after all, the field includes luminaries such as Gary Player, Tommy Horton and Bob Charles — but Bland is. The South African, who is seventh on the United States money-list, with earnings of more than $800,000 (about £480,000), has yet to win an individual event this season, but he won four times on the American senior tour last year and is in good form.

Barnes's golf has improved since he resumed smoking and went back to his old clubs, but he damaged tendons below his left knee a couple of weeks ago and did not know whether he would last the course. "We will just have to wait and see," he said after playing 16 holes early yesterday morning.

IN BRIEF

Lomu sets date for his return

JONAH LOMU, the New Zealand wing, plans to make his comeback to rugby union when the All Blacks tour Great Britain and Ireland in November. Lomu is recovering from a kidney disease.

NEW ZEALAND TOUR ITINERARY: November 8: Llanelli. Nov 11: Wales A (in Cardiff). Nov 15: Ireland (in Dublin). Nov 18: Emerging England (in Huddersfield). Nov 22: England (at Old Trafford). Nov 25: Allied Dunbar XV (in Bristol). Nov 29: Wales (at Wembley). December 2: England A (in Leicester). Dec 6: England (at Twickenham)

☐ Martin Corry, 23, has joined Leicester, a move that is likely to lead to legal action from Bristol, his previous club. Bristol claim Corry, who had been the club captain, has a year outstanding on his contract at the Memorial Ground. Corry, a flanker, was capped by England in May and June.

Boxing: Robert McCracken, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, is to return to the ring in Boston on August 23. McCracken, who will be boxing for the first time in the United States, has also switched his training base from Birmingham to California. He is still waiting to discover who he will meet.

Lacrosse: The 17-2 win over Scotland by the England women's team and the 9-4 victory over the Czech Republic by the men's side means that both are through to the finals of the European championships and are on course to retain their titles for the third successive year.

Cycling: Yvonne McGregor came within 0.338sec of her British championship 3,000 metres pursuit record in the qualifying round for this year's event with a time of 3min 35.963sec. Her ride on the Manchester indoor velodrome put her more than 16 seconds clear of Michelle Ward, the second-fastest qualifier.

Tennis: Danny Sapsford is Great Britain's lone survivor in the Northern Electric Open at Newcastle after beating Martin Lee, the former world junior No 1 from Worthing, 6-1, 7-5 in the first round.

Hockey: Jon Wyatt, of Reading, the England captain, was named Premier League player of the year for the second time in Milton Keynes last night. The first division prize went to Alan Stoves, the Doncaster player-coach.

HYUNDAI

It's always pleasant to receive something for nothing. Take six months' of free fuel for instance. Roughly what you'll get from the £500 you'll receive when you buy a Hyundai Lantra Estate. At £11,599, it's less than the cheapest Ford Escort Estate, yet has more boot space than a Ford Mondeo Estate. Which gives you an extra 8 cubic feet. For nothing. There's also three years' Hyundai/RAC Assistance, as well as a three year unlimited mileage warranty. For nothing. For more information, visit your nearest Hyundai dealer. Or phone us on 0800 981 981. Guess how much the call costs?

Take a little something home when you buy a Lantra.

Seven hundred and sixty three litres of petrol.

Hyundai Car (UK) Ltd St John's Place, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1NL. Telephone 01494 428600. Model featured: Lantra 2.0 CD, price £14,899 on the road. Lantra Estate range starts from £11,599 for the 1.6 LSi. On the road price includes delivery, number plates and 12 months road fund licence. Price and vehicle specification correct at time of going to press. "Free Petrol" available in form of a cheque for £500.00 from the manufacturer. Calculation based on an average 6-month mileage of 5,350 miles (1997 Lex Report on Motoring), average Lantra fuel consumption of 34.7mpg (Touring; What Car?, July 1997) and an assumed petrol cost of £0.63 per litre. Total of £480.87 then rounded up. Alternative offers are available from Hyundai dealerships but not of equivalent value. Offer available to private buyers only and must be first registered keeper. Offer not available on vehicles purchased through Motability schemes. Boot space comparison based on information in What Car?, July 1997. Vehicle must be registered between 1.6.97 and 30.9.97. See your dealer for warranty details.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 4 Oakland 3; Cleveland 6 Seattle 2, Detroit 6 Chicago White Sox 3; New York Yankees 9 Anaheim 2, Toronto 5 Milwaukee 2; Minnesota 3 Kansas City 2; Baltimore 9 Texas 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 4 Chicago Cubs 1 (first game); Chicago Cubs 5 Atlanta (second game); Cincinnati 7 Florida 6 Colorado 11 Montreal 9 (12inns); Houston 4 St Louis 2, Los Angeles 8 New York Mets 3, San Diego 3 Pittsburgh 2; San Francisco 8 Philadelphia 5

CYCLING

TOUR DE FRANCE: Seventeenth stage (Fribourg to Colmar, 219km) 1, N Stephens (Aus, Festina) 4hr 54min 38sec; 2, O Camenzind (Switz, Mapei) at 3sec; 3, V Ekimov (Russ, US Postal), 4 L Roux (Fr, TVM); 5 E Dekker (Holl Rabobank), 6 J Pascual (Sp Kelme), 7, B Julich (US, Cofidis); 8, S Outschakov (Ukr, Polti); 9 P Farazijn (Bel, Lotto); 10, C Mengin (Fr, La Française des Jeux). 84, M Sciandri (GB, La Française des Jeux) 3min 58sec. Leading overall positions: 1, J Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) 86hr 27min 46sec; 2, R Virenque (Fr, Festina) at 6min 22sec; 3, M Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 10:13; 4, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme) 16:05; 5, A Olano (Sp, Banesto) 16:40; 6, F Casagrande (It, Saeco) 17:14; 7, B Riis (Den, Telekom) 18:07; 8, J Jiménez (Sp, Banesto) 23:42; 9 R Conti (It, Mercatone Uno) 28:20; 10, L Dufaux (Switz, Festina) 29:46. 68, Sciandri 2hr 33min 17sec. Today: Eighteenth stage: Colmar to Montbeliard (175 kilometres)

MANCHESTER: BCF national track championships: Open 4,000m pursuit: Semi-finals: B Steel (Manchester Phoenix) 4min 34.722sec bt J Clay (Manchester Phoenix) 4:35.842; R Hayles (Team Ambrosia) 4:41.267 bt M Illingworth (Harlow CC) 4:47.931. Final: Hayles bt B Steel (Manchester Phoenix) in 1:56.912. Third place: Clay 4:34.879 bt Illingworth 4:41.249. Open 50km Madison: 25km heats: Heat one: 1, S Cope (WS Bike Group) and N Hoban (unatt) 10pts; 2, R Hayles and R Williams (Team Ambrosia) 17 (at one lap); 3, C Ball and J Taylor (Harlow CC) 14 (at one lap). Heat two: J Clay and B Steel (Manchester Phoenix) 22pts; 2, A Gibb (Condor Cycles RT) and A Sanders (Harlow CC) 16; 3, R Chapman and S Whitcombe (City of Edinburgh RT) 15. Women's 25km points race: 1, S Boyden (Middridge CRT) 31pts; 2, M Ward (Condor Cycles RT) 25; 3, M Johnson (Team Lusso) 22. Time 37.28.516. Open Keirin: Final: 1 P Jacques (City of Edinburgh RT); 2, R Jefferies (Bricon Cycles); 3, A McMath (CC Lancs). Last 200m in 11.390sec

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: First qualifying round: Birkirkara (Malta) 0 Spartak Trnava (Slovakia) 1

GERMAN LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: VfB Stuttgart 3 Karlsruhe 0

PRE-SEASON GAMES: Gloucester 3 Tuffley Rovers 1; Dagenham and Redbridge 4 Leyton Orient 2; St Albans 0 Tottenham XI 2; Berwick 0 York City 1; Stranraer 1 St Mirren 1; Linfield 1 Burnley 2; Morecambe 4 Doncaster Rovers 0; Newry 0 Tranmere Rovers 1; Stromsgodset (Nor) 1 Wimbledon 2, Kvinnherad (Nor) 1 Portsmouth 6, Gillingham 1 Queens Park Rangers 1; Colchester 1 Bolton Wanderers 1; Aldershot Town 1 Oxford United 4; Stoke City 0 Everton 2; Rotherham 2 Barnsley 1; Newtown 0 Shrewsbury 3; Scunthorpe 0 Leicester City 4: Tonbridge 2 Dover 2; West Bromwich Albion 0 Chelsea 2, Yeovil 0 Bristol Rovers 2, Carlisle 3 Motherwell 3; Kidderminster Harriers 1 Macclesfield 2; UCD 1 Charlton 2, Dundalk 0 Raith Rovers 2, St Francis 1 Falkirk 2; St Patrick's Athletic 3 Peterborough 1; Shamrock Rovers 0 Preston 2, Portadown 1 Hibernian 2; Hastings 0 Port Vale 2, Hampton 1 Farnborough 2; Bray Wanderers 0 St Johnstone 0; Partick 0 Aston Villa 3

GOLF

HANKLEY COMMON: English women's amateur strokeplay championship: First round leaders: 71: L Tupholme (Northcliffe), E Duggleby (Malton and Norton). 72: L Walters (Chevin). 73: G Nutter (Formby Ladies). 75: A Wheeley (West Hill), J Lamb (West Wilts). 76: D Rushworth (Woodsomehall), K Knowles (Worplesdon), A Murray (Lancaster), K Egford (Wiltshire), K Taylor (Sandford Springs). 77: F Brown (Heswall), C Court (Goodwood). 78: R Page (Henbury)

WELLS: Golf Foundation Weetabix age group championships: Regional final: Boys: Under 16: 68: R Perrett (Clevedon). Under 15: 78: C Scaton (Yeovil). Under 14: 79: M Watkins (Barton on Sea) and J Watson (Drayton Park); Watkins won on countback. Girls: Under 17: 78: M Fossett (Broome Manor). Under 15: 89: L Elkins (Wells)

LACROSSE

STOCKHOLM: European championships: Men: Scotland 4 Wales 16; England 9 Czech Republic 4. Sweden 12 Germany 2; Wales 8 Sweden 10. Women: Germany 2 Sweden 2; Scotland 2 Czech Republic 9; England 6 Wales 4; England 17 Scotland 2.

ROWING

DOGGETT'S COAT AND BADGE RACE (London Bridge to Chelsea Bridge): 1, M Russell (Gravesend) 30min 15sec; 2, L Saunders (Felixstowe), 3, M Mays (Erith); 4, N Howard (Gravesend); M Spanswick (Mitcham) and D Reed (Poplar) dnf.

RUGBY LEAGUE

TOUR MATCH: Australian developing States 24 Barla Young Lions 8 (at Olympic Park Melbourne)

SHOOTING

BISLEY: NRA Imperial meeting: Clementi Smith Aggregate (300, 500 and 600 yds): 1, A Luckman (Sedgemoor) 150.23pts; 2, S/Ldr D Calvert (RAF) 150.22; 3, A Ringer (Uppingham Veterans) 150.21. Steward Cup (Teams): 1, OGRE 587.70; 2, Manchester 582.72; 3, Wandsworth 582.70. Corporation Trophy (1,000 yds): Tie, G Chase (Can), J Munn (East Scotland) and J Warburton (Huddersfield) 50.6. Wimbledon Cup (500 yds): Tie, M Wood (Huddersfield), Hussin bin Mat (Malaysia) and A Barnes (Bedfordians) 50.10. Monday Aggregate: D Dodds (Rand) 149.20. Elkington Aggregate (Long Ranges): 1, S Collings (Windsor) 145.18; 2, J Warburton (Huddersfield) 145.15; 3, J Messer (NLRC) 145.12. Young Rifleman's Aggregate: 1, D Crawford (Canadian Cadets) 150.20; 2, G McEachern (Canadian Cadets) 148.19; P, Rae (Cambridge U) 148.22. Palma Aggregate (Long Range): 1, A Marion (Can) 194.22; 2, T Rylands (Manchester) 191.20; 3, Messer 193.18. Donaldson Memorial Aggregate (900 and 1,000 yds): 1, I Shaw (Old Epsomians) 145.16; 2, J Warburton (Huddersfield) 145.15; 3, Messer 145.12. Grand Aggregate positions: 1, S Collings (Windsor) 417.64; 2, A Luckman (Sedgemoor) 417.50; 3, F/Lieut S Williamson (RAF) 316.57; 4, D Dodds (Rand RC) 316.55; 5, A Ringer (Uppingham Vets) 416.51; 6, I Shaw (Old Epsomians) 415.56. County championship (Short Range): 1, Somerset 788.116; 2, Norfolk 787.123; 3, Hertfordshire 786.104. Inter-Services short range: 1, RAF 1,177.159; 2, Regular Army 1,164.137; 3, Territorial Army 1,146.122.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Bradford 55 Wolverhampton 35

TENNIS

KITZBÜHEL: Men's tournament: First round: B Karbacher (Ger) bt J Oncins (Br) 7-6, 6-2; C Costa (Sp) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-4, 6-2; L Arnold (Arg) bt D Orsanic (Arg) 6-1, 6-4; J Alonso (Sp) bt M Hipfl (Austria) 7-5, 4-6, 6-1; N Lapentti (Ec) bt E Sánchez (Sp) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1; G Mandl (Austria) bt G Schaller (Austria) 5-2 ret; J A Viloca (Sp) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 6-2, 6-0; M Sinner (Ger) bt W Eschauer (Austria) 6-4, 6-4; O Munoz (Sp) bt T Schiessling (Austria) 7-6, 6-2; F Meligeni (Br) bt F Fontang (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6. Second round: S Dosedel (Cz) bt T Champion (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; M Filippini (Uru) bt A Volkov (Russ) 6-3, 6-2; H Gumy (Arg) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-1, 6-3, H Dreekmann (Ger) bt Munoz 6-0, 6-1; G Blanco (Sp) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-8, 6-2; F Dewulf (Belgium) bt Sinner (Ger) 6-1, 6-0; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt Meligeni 6-1, 6-3; Karbacher bt J Novak (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, Alonso (Sp) bt B Ulirach (Cz) 6-2, 6-3; Lapentti bt J Tarango (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, T Muster (Austria) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-1.

UMAG, Croatia: Men's tournament: First round: P Haarhuis (Holl) bt J A Marin (Sp) 6-4, 7-6; F Mantilla (Sp) bt A Cherkasov (Russ) 6-3, 7-6; D Caballero (Sp) bt O Stanoytchev (Bul) 6-2, 6-2; F Vicente (Sp) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1, 2-1 ret; C Moyà (Sp) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 5-7, 4-2 ret; S Bruguera (Sp) bt G Silberstein (Chile) 6-0, 6-4; A Martin (Sp) bt P Fredriksson (Swe) 6-2, 6-2; A Portas (Sp) bt A Pavel (Rom) 6-2, 7-5; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt N Marques (Por) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; J Sanchez (Sp) bt S Hirszon (Cro) 6-1, 6-2; A Voinea (Rom) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-2, 7-5.

JESMOND: Northern Electric men's international: First round: D Sapsford (GB) bt M Lee (GB) 6-1, 7-6; A Belobrajdic (Aus) bt J Apell (Swe) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; G Galimberti (It) bt N Bruno (It) 7-6, 2-1 ret; J Perlant (Fr) bt B Galik (Slovenia) 6-1, 6-4; J Imaz (Sp) bt S Pescosolido (It) 7-5, 6-1; O Burrieza bt C van Garsse (Bel) 7-6, 3-6, 7-5; F Santoro (Fr) bt F Dondo (Uru) 6-1, 6-0; T Guardiola (Fr) bt O Serrano (It) 6-3, 6-4; A Beotsch (Fr) bt O Mutis (Fr) 7-6, 6-2.

LOS ANGELES: Men's tournament: First round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt N Godwin (SA) 7-6, 6-3; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt R Jabali (Br) 1-6, 6-3, 7-6; R Krajicek (Holl) bt M Ondruska (SA) 6-4, 6-4; J Courier (US) bt G Stafford (SA) 7-5, 7-5; S Sargsian (Arm) bt A O'Brien (US) 6-4, 6-3; G Weiner (US) bt B Bryan (US) 6-4, 6-3; B Black (Zim) bt D Flach (US) 6-2, 6-0; M Bhupathi (India) bt D Nestor (Can) 7-6, 7-6; J Gimelstob (US) bt A Agassi (US) 7-5, 6-2; O Delaitre (Fr) bt E Ran (Isr) 6-4, 6-4.

STANFORD, California: Women's tournament: First round: L Raymond (US) bt F Lubiani (It) 6-4, 6-3; L Wild (US) bt L McNeil (US) 6-4, 7-5; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt A Miller (US) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 6-3, 6-2; R Grande (It) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 6-4, 7-6; S Cacic (US) bt A Grossman (US) 6-2, 6-2; M Tu (US) bt E deLone (US) 7-5, 5-7, 6-0; K Po (US) bt M Schnitzer (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; M Maleeva (Bul) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6-0, 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) bt S D Brockman (Aus) 6-3, 6-2.

HATFIELD: European under-16 championships: Boys: Second round: M Pass (Holl) bt A Mackin (GB) 6-2, 6-1; A Vinciguerra (Swe) bt S Dickson (GB) 6-0, 6-4. Girls: Second round: L Sánchez (Fr) bt S Gregg (GB) 6-3, 6-1; S Hrozenska (Slovenia) bt H Collin (GB) 4-6, 7-5, 7-5

WARSAW: Women's tournament: First round: M Babel (Ger) bt S de Ville (Bel) 3-6, 6-3, 5-2 ret; D Chladkova (Cz) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; J Kruger (SA) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 6-4, 6-4; P Schnyder (Switz) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-3, 6-2; K Studenikova (Slovakia) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 6-3, 6-2; S Cecchini (It) bt P Langrova (It) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; M Sánchez-Lorenzo (Sp) bt A Dechaume Balleret (Fr) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

EASTBOURNE: LTA inter-county grass court championships: Men: Group One: Hampshire and Isle of Wight 8 Berkshire 1; Devon 5 Buckinghamshire 4; Surrey 7 Yorkshire 2. Women: Group One: South Wales 5 Middlesex 4; Warwickshire 9 Yorkshire 0; Essex 5 Leicestershire 4.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £3,682.10; 23 £30.80; 22 £2.60; 21 £1.00. Four draws £1.45. Ten homes £204.60. Five aways £80.35.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £74.15; 23 £2.35 (two dividends only). Three draws £1.00. Eight homes £25.00. Six aways £54.60.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Fourth Cornhill Test match

11.0, first day of five, 90 overs minimum

HEADINGLEY: England v Australia

Tour match

11.0 first day of four

HOVE: Sussex v Pakistan A

Britannic Assurance county championship

11.0, second day of four 104 overs minimum

CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v Glamorgan

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Worcestershire

CHELTENHAM: Gloucestershire v Durham

SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Lancashire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire

LORD'S: Middlesex v Kent

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Surrey

Noon, first day of four, 104 overs minimum

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Somerset

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Canterbury: Kent v Middlesex. Dunstable: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire. The Oval: Surrey v Somerset. Solihull: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire. Worcester: Worcestershire v Essex. Third day of four: Chester-le-Street: Durham v Nottinghamshire. Pontypridd: Glamorgan v Hampshire.

FOOTBALL

kick-off 7.30

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Ayr v Coventry City. Hamilton United v Motherwell.

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Senior British Open (at Royal Portrush)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League: Sheffield v Arena Essex (7.30).

TENNIS: Northern Electric International Open (in Jesmond); European under-16 championships (in Hatfield); county championships (in Eastbourne)

TEAMtalk
THE INDEPENDENT NEWS & REPORTS SERVICE
SUMMER SPENDING HOTS UP!
NEW FASTER ACCESS CODE CALL NOW 0930+ AND REMEMBER CALLS CHARGED PER SECOND

ARSENAL	168 806	MAN UTD	168 801
ASTON VILLA	168 811	MIDDLESBRO	168 822
BARNSLEY	168 864	NEWCASTLE	168 816
BIRMINGHAM	168 845	NORWICH	168 818
BLACKBURN	168 821	NOTT'M FOREST	168 813
BOLTON	168 836	Q.P.R.	168 825
CHELSEA	168 808	SHEFF WED	168 814
C. PALACE	168 824	SHEFF UTD	168 819
DERBY COUNTY	168 828	SOUTHAMPTON	168 820
EVERTON	168 805	SPURS	168 807
HUDDERSFIELD	168 861	STOKE CITY	168 830
LEEDS UNITED	168 803	SUNDERLAND	168 827
LEICESTER	168 835	W.B.A.	168 843
LIVERPOOL	168 804	WEST HAM	168 812
MAN CITY	168 802	WOLVES	168 834

Find us now on the Internet: http://www.teamtalk.com

RACING

Derby fixture suffers from fresh case of congestion

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE conflicting demands of racing's various customers are perfectly reflected in the 1998 fixture list published yesterday — which includes six meetings in addition to Epsom being staged on Derby day.

Although there has been considerable criticism suggesting the large number of meetings detracts from the most important Flat race of the year, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) concluded there was no evidence to support that view — and it decided additional fixtures benefit other courses, the betting industry and racing's finances.

Apart from Derby day at Epsom, the first Saturday in June will have afternoon meetings at Doncaster, Haydock and over the jumps at Worcester, while evening fixtures are being staged at Newmarket, on the all-weather at Wolverhampton and jumping at Newton Abbot.

Paul Greeves, the BHB's racing director, yesterday acknowledged the differing views which extend to the BHB board itself. "There is a clear divergence of view about Derby day and it was carefully considered by the fixtures allocation group and the board. It was not just glossed over and ignored.

"The board's collective view was that the factors suggesting the number of fixtures on Derby day should be maintained outweighed those suggesting the opposite. Those views included confirmation of the position of the off-course betting market that they want four fixtures in the afternoon, which maximises turnover, the levy and, therefore, income to racing.

"The strong view from the racecourses involved was that they see racing at the same time as the Derby as an opportunity for them to play their part to promote the Derby through their own fixture in areas where people geographically are unlikely to travel to Epsom which, fortunately, is bursting at the seams anyway."

Greeves continued: "So we carry the Derby to racing aficionados at these courses. We will be asking them to give further emphasis to that. Many of them this year already centred their fixture around the Derby and showed it at the track — so it will be Derby day at the other fixtures as well."

Sir Thomas Pilkington, senior steward of the Jockey Club, is understood to be one of those who believes passionately Derby day is special and should not be cluttered up with so many other fixtures. "The board took the view that the fixtures on Derby day, in the way the fixture list is constructed, do not damage the Derby and, in fact, give an opportunity for other courses to promote it," Greeves added. "There was nothing that happened on Derby day this year to suggest it damaged it; quite the opposite."

John Gosden, who sent out Benny The Dip to win this year's Epsom classic, said he could understand the geographical reasons for Doncaster and Haydock, and had no disagreement with the evening meeting at Newmarket, "but I can't see the point in Wolverhampton or Worcester. I think four meetings in addition to Epsom is quite sufficient. You do cheapen it by having so many others."

Sue Ellen, managing director of United Racecourses, which includes Epsom, understands why other courses want to hold meetings, although they do not benefit the Derby. "The main concern is that the extra meetings take up a lot of newspaper space. All the cards have got to be printed and that is space we are not getting for the Derby," she said.

Apart from the Derby controversy, the 1998 fixture list confirmed that Ascot has been granted a meeting on the same day as the Lingfield Derby Trial meeting, while Carlisle is known to be unhappy with Newcastle's. Northumberland Plate meeting being extended to three days.

MARC ASPLAND

Some of the faces who helped swell attendances to record levels at last season's Cheltenham Festival

Cheltenham to limit crowds

By Richard Evans

A CROWD limit of 50,000 is to be introduced on each day of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham next March. The action follows complaints by spectators about conditions at this year's meeting.

More than 58,000 people were crammed into Prestbury Park on Cheltenham Gold Cup day, which made conditions uncomfortable for large numbers of customers. Some vowed never to return to the home of National Hunt racing unless crowd controls were introduced.

The welcome decision to restrict numbers follows comments received by the racecourse and market research. Cheltenham, which celebrates its centenary next year, took account of the 24 per cent growth in festival attendances since 1993 and "the desire expressed by many visitors to enjoy the racing in a greater degree of comfort".

Next year will be the first time Cheltenham has limited attendances in all enclosures, and yesterday the executive was at pains to stress that it will be "essential" to book in advance for Gold Cup day in the Club, Tattersalls and Courage enclosures.

The new controls are likely to have limited effect on the first two days of the meeting, as 41,629 and 42,984 respectively attended on the Tuesday and Wednesday this year — compared to 58,500 on the Thursday.

Edward Gillespie, managing director of Cheltenham, said yesterday: "We have listened to the comments of our racegoers and shall keep the crowd levels under review. Unlike other major meetings which limit Club and Tattersalls, our Courage enclosure is one of the most popular areas on the course, and it is equally important to limit attendance there.

"We shall be promoting the availability of badges and tickets from early August to ensure that everyone planning to attend is made aware of these arrangements."

Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), was among those who praised Cheltenham's move.

He said: "Cheltenham's decision is an excellent example of a racecourse listening and responding to its customers. The National Hunt Festival was clearly in danger of becoming a victim of its own success, but this responsible action by the executive will ensure that a high priority rightly continues to be accorded to the comfort of the racegoer."

Tony Roestenburg, chief executive of Letheby & Christopher, which provides much of the catering at the festival, added: "Congestion within the bars at Cheltenham has made it difficult for customers to buy food and drink and to enjoy it in comfort. Restriction of crowd numbers will address this problem to the benefit of all."

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Statua
2.50 Bright Heritage
3.25 Zidac
3.55 Eloquent
4.25 Sudest
4.55 Marengo

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: **2.50 BRIGHT HERITAGE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.50 Crown Of Thorns. 3.55 **ELOQUENT** (nap). 4.25 Melodica.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (RA: D Robinson) B Hall 3-10-4 B West (4) 36

Racecard number [non-runners]. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse last won (F — firm, good to firm. Hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft. Heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider (pounds allowance). The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW 5F. LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O £3,583 5f 6yd) (8 runners)

101 (1) 04 LIFE SENTENCE 9 (Hesmondhalgh) J C Smyth-Osbourne 9-7 D Harrison 75
102 (6) 5 STATUA 12 (Dayline Racing Ltd) P Makin 9-7 R Cochrane 77
103 (5) THELONIUS (Abe E Smyth-Osbourne & Partners) G Smyth-Osbourne 9-7 K Fallon –
104 (8) SHARP FELLOW (Rail House Partnership) J Gosden 9-5 L Dettori –
105 (6) 022 CLOUDBERRY 6 (Mrs D Corvin) E Machin 9-5 Pat Eddery [illegible]
106 (7) 6 BALA 17 (Lord Margadale) H Morrison 9-4 K Darley 85
107 (2) 0 MERCURY FALLING 44 (P Earlsfort) D Whatmore 9-1 Martin Dwyer (3) –
108 (4) NATALIE'S PET (Mrs L McCaffer) S Lanni 8-1 R Price –

BETTING: 5-4 Cloudberry, 9-2 Statua, 13-2 Sharp Fellow, 7-1 Bala, 8-1 Life Sentence, 10-1 Natalie's Pet, 20-1 Thelonius, Mercury Falling.

1996: BIG BEN 9-5 Pat Eddery (13-2) R Hannon 6 ran.

FORM FOCUS

LIFE SENTENCE about 10½l 4th of 10 to Lets Be Fast in auction maiden at Beverley (5f, good to firm). STATUA 6¼l 5th of 14 to Merlin's Ring in auction maiden at York (6f, good to firm). SHARP FELLOW (Kodiac, Mar 22, cost 5,500gns). Half-brother by Kris to Akabusi (7f winner and Lillibella, £1.6 winner, dam 1m winner). CLOUDBERRY head 2nd of 12 to Bayleaf in maiden at Newbury (5f, good to firm). BALA 8l 6th of 12 to Cherry Court in maiden at Windsor (5f, good). MERCURY FALLING 19l 11th of 12 to Parrocan Lady in auction maiden at Salisbury (5f, good to firm). NATALIE'S PET (Apr 12, 6,000gns). Half-sister by Mtoto (Kenya) to Walk In The Park, fairly useful sprinter from dam 1m 3f winner in France.
Selection: CLOUDBERRY

2.50 SUN BANK MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,512, 1m 14yd) (10 runners)

201 (7) 223-45 BRIGHT HERITAGE 16 (BF) (J Gosden) D Loder 4-9-7 Pat Eddery [illegible]
202 (8) 00 WAASEF 66 (Another Seventh Heaven Partnership) Gay Kelleway 4-9-7 S Sanders 61
203 (2) 30 BLOT 54 (P Cover Bloodstock Trading Ltd) J Cover 3-8-13 Paul Eddery 90
204 (10) 5 CROWN OF THORNS 20 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-8-13 L Dettori –
205 (5) 3- FATAL BARAARI 309 (Sheikh Al-Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-13 J Reid 88
206 (6) JOUST (Wick Hall Stud) C Brittain 3-8-13 B Doyle –
207 (2) 0 FLYING FLIP 12 (T Leadbeater) E Morgan 3-8-8 C Hodgson 83
208 (3) GALAXY FLIGHT (D Caddy) M Meade 3-8-8 F Norton –
209 (1) 0 JUST DICKENS 17 (Up 5 Dinner Partnership) R Ingram 3-8-8 A McGlone –
210 (9) ROCK RIVER (Mrs P Blake) D O'Brien 3-8-8 G Bardwell –

BETTING: 2-1 Fatal Baraari, 9-4 Bright Heritage, 9-2 Blot, 5-1 Crown Of Thorns, 16-1 Joust, 20-1 Waasef, 25-1 Flying Flip, 33-1 others.

1996: YALTA 3-8-13 Pat Eddery (11-10 fav) P Cheshire 12 ran.

FORM FOCUS

BRIGHT HERITAGE about 5l 5th of 12 to Song Of Freedom in maiden at Pontefract (1m 2f, good). WAASEF 15l 10th of 16 to Green Poyse in maiden at Windsor (1m 67yd, soft). BLOT 5¾l 3rd of 12 to Komi in maiden at Thirsk (1m, good) on penultimate start. CROWN OF THORNS 14½l 5th of 17 to Specialator in maiden at Warwick (1m, soft). FATAL BARAARI 5¼l 3rd of 15 to Sleepytime in maiden at Sandown (7f, good to firm). FLYING FLIP 10l 7th of 13 to Speed Fortune in maiden at Warwick (7f, good). JUST DICKENS 13l 11th of 12 to Wishing Stone in maiden at Windsor (1m 67yd, good).
Selection: FATAL BARAARI (nap)

3.25 SUN LIFE OF CANADA HANDICAP
(£7,263: 1m 2f 7yd) (16 runners)

301 (4) 5-105043 BARDON HILL BOY 13 (D,F) (Miss M Breslin) B Hanbury 5-9-12 M Rimmer 95
302 (13) 2-00534 SOFYAAN 13 (BF,S) (E Kerr-Dineen) Lady Herries 4-9-11 R Cochrane 97
303 (2) -005041 TROJAN RISK 19 (CD,F,S) (J McCarthy) G Lewis 4-9-6 Paul Eddery 95
304 (11) 3-42210 POKER SCHOOL 14 (G) (D Westley) N Callaghan 3-9-5 D Harrison –
305 (3) 01 DARAPOUR 17 (D,F) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 3-9-5 Pat Eddery 96
306 (9) 1114/2- HERR TRIGGER 488 (B,D,F) (A Edwards) Dr J Scargill 6-9-3 J Tate –
307 (15) -046533 TRACEABILITY 15 (C,F,S) (J Lorett) S C Williams 4-9-2 K Darley 97
308 (7) 4024030 GENERAL HAVEN 34 (G) (A Gatarich) T Naughton 4-9-1 J Weaver [illegible]
309 (10) 0010-33 TYPHOON EIGHT 20 (G) (M Sto) R Armstrong 5-9-1 R Price 92
310 (12) -502045 ZIDAC 20 (D,F,G) (B Brockpoch) P Makin 5-9-0 S Sanders 96
311 (5) 3304220 QUIET ARCH 41 (D) (J Davies) W Muir 4-8-12 K Fallon 94
312 (14) 223-140 SUPERBELLE 126 (D) (R Yong) M Jarvis 3-8-11 Emma O'Gorman 88
313 (8) 0000515 BRANDON JACK 12 (BF,F,S) (R Mitchelhorn) I Balding 3-8-10 L Dettori 95
314 (16) 0-04 SHAHBOOR 30 (Sir Evelyn De Rothschild) M Stoute 3-8-7 J Reid 91
315 (6) 0-02411 KORALOONA 25 (D,S) (B Ivory) G Balding 4-8-2 A McGlone 96
316 (1) 4-00003 PRINCESS TOPAZ 10 (S Grant) C Cyzer 3-8-0 Martin Dwyer (3) 95

BETTING: 5-1 Trojan Risk, 6-1 Koraloona, 7-1 Sofyaan, 8-1 Bardon Hill Boy, Darapour, 10-1 Poker School, Traceability, Typhoon Eight, Brandon Jack, 14-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BARDON HILL BOY 3½l 3rd of 7 to Vendian in handicap at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, good to firm) with SOFYAAN 1¾l 4th. TROJAN RISK beat Patriot Games 1l in 14-runner handicap over course and distance (good to soft). POKER SCHOOL beat Puzzled Ann 1½l in 14-runner maiden at Doncaster (1m 1f, good) on penultimate start. DARAPOUR beat Desert Beauty ¾l in 10-runner maiden at Bath (1m 2f, good). TRACEABILITY neck and 1½l 3rd of 11 to Rising Dough in handicap Epsom (1m 2f, good to soft). BRANDON JACK about 2½l 5th of 7 to Ambidextrous in handicap at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good to firm). KORALOONA completed double beat Warm Spell head in 7-runner amateurs' handicap at Goodwood (1m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: TROJAN RISK

3.55 MILCARS STAR STAKES
(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,048: 7f 16yd) (6 runners)

401 (3) 1 ELOQUENT 29 (F) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 8-12 S Sanders 64
402 (5) 41 NEXT ROUND 22 (D,S) (Delta Ltd) M Bell 8-12 M Fenton 74
403 (1) 1 WOODLAND MELODY 19 (G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-12 J Reid 88
404 (3) 26 FORUM 16 (Wick Hall Stud) C Brittain 8-9 B Doyle [illegible]
405 (4) 0 OBSESSED 14 (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-9 L Dettori 83
406 (6) 33 ROBEENA 12 (Village Green Racing) C Allen 8-9 Martin Dwyer 86

BETTING: 9-4 Forum, 5-2 Woodland Melody, 11-4 Eloquent, 7-1 Next Round, Obsessed, 14-1 Robeena.

1996: RED CAMELLIA 8-12 T Quinn (8-1) M Prescott 7 ran.

FORM FOCUS

ELOQUENT beat Panama House ¾l in 9-runner maiden at Carlisle (6f, firm). NEXT ROUND beat Flow By 1¼l in 12-runner maiden at Folkestone (7f, soft). WOODLAND MELODY beat Lucky Story ¾l in 10-runner novice race at Haydock (6f, good) with ROBEENA (3lb better off) 1l 3rd. FORUM about 3¼l 6th of 12 to Acharah in group II Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket (6f, good). OBSESSED 5½l 7th of 13 to Embassy in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm).
Selection: ELOQUENT

4.25 PYCRAFT & ARNOLD HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,136: 1m 6f) (11 runners)

501 (10) 33-135 MITHAK 13 (B,F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-7 R Hills 95
502 (4) 3100 ASSURED GAMBLE 19 (G) (P Head) C Brittain 9-6 B Doyle 95
503 (9) 0-02 CRYSTAL HILLS 12 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-5 L Dettori 89
504 (5) -211232 LITTLE ACORN 12 (G) (A Simpson) S C Williams 9-5 K Darley 95
505 (6) 3-221 MELODICA 12 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 9-2 J Reid 89
506 (3) 4061202 HEART OF ARMOR 29 (S) (J Gutkin) P Cole 9-2 Pat Eddery 94
507 (6) 6-41 HIGH INTRIGUE 29 (S) (Mrs E Hanks) H Cecil 8-11 K Fallon 90
508 (11) 000-214 TANGO KING 51 (BF,D,S) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 8-9 R Cochrane 91
509 (2) 433315 SUN ALERT 15 (D,F) (K Lee) M Polglase 8-9 M Rimmer 95
510 (1) 0014114 SUDEST 33 (F) (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 8-7 Martin Dwyer (3) [illegible]
511 (7) 001004 BEHIND THE SCENES 6 (S) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 8-6 S Sanders 95

BETTING: 9-2 High Intrigue, 5-1 Crystal Hills, 11-2 Melodica, 13-2 Heart of Armor, 7-1 Tango King, Sudest, 8-1 Mithak, 10-1 others.

1996: PINE NEEDLE 9-7 B Thomson (4-1) D Morley 6 ran.

FORM FOCUS

MITHAK 5½l last of 3 to Ivan Luca in conditions race at Catterick (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start. ASSURED GAMBLE best effort this term beat Silver Wonder 3l in 6-runner maiden at Newmarket (1m 4f, good) with SUN ALERT (6lb better off) 3½l 3rd. LITTLE ACORN ¾l 2nd of 8 to Tapperto in handicap at Epsom (1m 4f, soft). MELODICA beat CRYSTAL HILLS (2lb better off) 1½l in 8-runner maiden at Lingfield (1m 6f, good to firm). HEART OF ARMOR 7l 2nd of 9 to Ramsnatch in handicap at Salisbury (1m 4f, good to soft). HIGH INTRIGUE beat Spondulicks 18l in 3-runner maiden at Chester (1m 5f 89yd, heavy). TANGO KING 5½l 4th of 7 to Royal Castle in handicap at Pontefract (1m 4f, good to firm). SUDEST beat Lado 3½l in 8-runner conditions race at Bath (1m 3f 144yd, good to firm).
Selection: MELODICA

4.55 SURREY RACING HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,485: 5f 6yd) (11 runners)

601 (8) -214000 KILCULLEN LAD 8 (V,D,F) (G Tobin) P Mooney 9-7 R Cochrane [illegible]
602 (4) 15-5321 SALLY GREEN 30 (CD,S) (P Stenbergh) C Wall 9-2 L Dettori 95
603 (7) 32160036 SILENT MIRACLE 16 (M Khan) M Bell 9-1 M Fenton 98
604 (6) 41 HEVER GOLF ROCKET 15 (G) (Hever Racing Club) T Houghton 9-0 Pat Eddery 88
605 (3) 33-5360 NIGHTINGALE SONG 111 (G) (S Bagley) M Meade 8-13 F Norton 86
606 (10) 6-01104 BRAMBLE BEAR 13 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Hill & Mrs H Chadwick) M Blanshard 8-11 J Quinn 91
607 (1) 0-20326 MARENGO 22 (J Sharp) J Akehurst 8-9 S Sanders 95
608 (11) 5031204 TEAR WHITE 15 (D,F) (A Lawson & Co Ltd) T Mills 8-8 J Reid 95
609 (5) 2431434 SHALSTAYHOLY 8 (G) (J & R Leisure Ltd) G L Moore 8-7 K Fallon 94
610 (9) 6013663 ANOKATO 7 (D,F) (K Ivory) K Ivory 8-4 Martin Dwyer (3) 96
611 (2) -100643 MON BRUCE 7 (Miss M Van Bakel) W Muir 7-12 J Lowe 98

BETTING: 9-2 Sally Green, 11-2 Silent Miracle, 6-1 Marengo, 7-1 Bramble Bear, Anokato, 8-1 Hever Golf Rocket, Shalstayholy, Mon Bruce, 10-1 others.

1996: CLAN CHIEF 8-6 T Quinn (2-1 fav) J Arnold 7 ran.

FORM FOCUS

SALLY GREEN beat Sangloryoursuppe 1½l in 10-runner handicap over course and distance (good to soft). SILENT MIRACLE 2½l 3rd of 6 to Milly Norman in handicap at Ayr (6f, good) on penultimate start. HEVER GOLF ROCKET beat Tally Ho! short-head in 8-runner auction maiden at Folkestone (6f, good). BRAMBLE BEAR 6¾l 4th of 6 to The Gay Fox in handicap at Chester (5f, good to firm). MARENGO 3½l 2nd of 9 to The Fugueve in handicap at Epsom (6f, good to soft) on penultimate start, with TEAR WHITE 29½l 9th. SHALSTAYHOLY about 1¾l 4th of 8 to Always On My Mind in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to soft). ANOKATO ¾l and neck 3rd of 7 to Dominant Air in handicap at Bath (5f, good to firm).
Selection: SALLY GREEN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S Williams	4	18	58.4	J Tate	7	25	28.0
J Gosden	29	109	21.1	Pat Eddery	57	264	21.6
M Prescott	4	19	21.1	L Dettori	46	219	21.0
C Wall	5	25	20.0	J Weaver	11	61	18.0
P Chapple-Hyam	5	27	18.5	K Fallon	7	45	15.6
J Dunlop	20	109	18.3	J Reid	24	210	11.4

☐ Greenlander (trained by Cliver Brittain), Atlantic Viking (Mark Johnston), Dernier Croise (Brian Meehan) and Aurigny (Simon Dow) form the British challenge for the group two Prix Robert Papin at Maisons-Laffitte on Saturday.

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER
2.00 OUTSOURCING (nap). 2.35 Feel A Line. 3.10 Sapphire Son. 3.40 Interdream. 4.10 Chingachgook. 4.40 Resist The Force.

GOING: FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 EBF WOODINGDEAN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,096: 6f 209yd) (12 runners)

1 (4) 60 ALDWYCH ARROW 26 M Bell 9-0 M Fenton 85
2 (11) 04 APPYABO 19 M Channon 9-0 R Hughes 75
3 (1) 0242 OUTSOURCING 8 P Cole 9-0 C Rutter [illegible]
4 (8) 0 RILEY 19 R Charlton 9-0 T Sprake –
5 (12) 425 SIGNATORY 14 R Hannon 9-0 W J O'Connor 88
6 (5) 66 SIMLET 8 W Jarvis 9-0 W Ryan 83
7 (3) 2 AEGEAN DAWN 8 (BF) R Hannon 8-9 Dane O'Neill 91
8 (6) 00 BLUEBERRY 10 S Dow 8-9 D O'Donohoe (3) 84
9 (7) COLLEVILLE M Jarvis 8-9 M Tebbutt –
10 (10) 3 FAWKENS 22 M Blanshard 8-9 J Quinn 75
11 (9) 02 FLOW BY 22 J Dunlop 8-9 G Carter 85
12 (2) 060 PHANTOM WATERS 12 R Johnson Houghton 8-9 A Clark 81

7-4 Outsourcing, 5-1 Flow By, 6-1 Aegean Dawn, 13-2 Fawkens, 8-1 Signatory, 12-1 Appyabo, Riley, 14-1 others.

2.35 ROCK GARDENS CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,277: 6f 209yd) (17)

1 (12) 5-00 KILVINE 13 (F) W Haggas 4-9-8 S Drowne 97
2 (5) 0-44 KINGS HARMONY 38 (CD,F) P Makin 4-9-8 D Holland 97
3 (3) 0001 RAWI 10 (B,D,F) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-0 R Ffrench (3) 85
4 (1) 0000 COASTGUARDS HERO 9 M Usher 4-8-12 R Hughes 80
5 (14) 6000 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 9 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 9-8-12 S Whitworth 96
6 (15) 6100 DARK MENACE 9 (B,CD,F) E Wheeler 5-8-12 S Carson (7) 90
7 (7) 5004 JUBILEE SCHOLAR 8 G L Moore 4-8-12 Candy Morris 98
8 (4) 0545 BLAZING CASTLE 41 W G M Turner 3-8-11 D McGaffin (7) 89
9 (11) 0 JUST BLINK 19 S Williams 4-8-9 DOUBTFUL –
10 (13) 1316 FEEL A LINE 10 (B,BF,CD,F,S) B Meehan 3-8-7 M Tebbutt 84
11 (6) -400 CHOPIN II (G) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-5 A Clark 83
12 (17) 0636 PEARL DAWN 9 (C,F,G) P Cole 7-8-5 Dane O'Neill 91
13 (9) 0344 PRINCE OF FORTUNE 10 M Blanchard 3-8-5 J Quinn 86
14 (10) 0-00 MIRROR FOUR LIFE 17 (V,D,F,G) M Tompkins 3-8-4 D Biggs [illegible]
15 (16) 0006 DURABLE GEORGE 13 J Bridger 3-8-3 A Daly (5) –
16 (8) 6204 OKAY BABY 10 (F) J Bradley 5-8-3 T Sprake 80
17 (2) 00- CAPTAIN PICARD 421 D O'Brien 3-8-1 G Carter –

3-1 Kings Harmony, 5-1 Rawi, 6-1 Crystal Heights, 8-1 Feel A Line, Pearl Dawn, 10-1 Okay Baby, 12-1 Kilvine, Blazing Castle, Prince Of Fortune, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Jarvis, 7 winners from 25 runners, 28.0%, S Williams, 3 from 12, 25.0%. J Dunlop, 11 from 53, 20.8%. S Woods, 5 from 25, 20.0%; Miss G Kelleway, 11 from 56, 19.6%.

JOCKEYS: R Hughes, 13 winners from 67 rides, 19.4%; Dane O'Neill, 16 from 94, 17.0%; R Ffrench, 3 from 19, 15.8%, J D Smith, 4 from 30, 13.3%, S Whitworth, 14 from 106, 13.2%, D Holland, 7 from 54, 13.0%.

3.10 KINGSTON SELLING HANDICAP
(£1,985: 1m 3f 196yd) (9)

1 (7) 2042 SODA POP 8 C Brittain 3-10-0 W J O'Connor [illegible]
2 (2) 6036 SOVEREIGN CREST 33 C Horgan 4-9-11 D Holland 98
3 (6) 4402 SAPPHIRE SON 3 (C,G) P Clarke 5-9-8 R Ffrench (3) 85
4 (8) 40-6 TYROLEAN DANCER 21 S Woods 3-9-4 D Biggs 98
5 (1) 1530 KIROV PROTEGE 27 (F) Mrs L Jewell 5-9-2 D Williams (7) 83
6 (3) 3040 MAPENGO 5 (B,S) J Cullinan 6-9-2 V Slattery 80
7 (9) 5400 HARLEQUIN WALK 15 (D,G) R O'Sullivan 6-9-0 J Quinn 85
8 (5) 0035 RUNNING FREE 3 M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-13 Dane O'Neill 98
9 (4) 0060 TUNGAMALA 17 (C,F) R Ingram 6-8-12 N Adams 90

3-1 Sapphire Son, 7-2 Soda Pop, 9-2 Sovereign Crest, 7-1 Kirov Protege, Harlequin Walk, 8-1 Tyrolean Dancer, Running Free, 14-1 others.

3.40 PEVENSEY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,277: 1m 1f 209yd) (10)

1 (10) 6151 WHO'S THAT MAN 8 (CD,F) S Williams 9-10 (6ex) D Holland 95
2 (3) 0-62 CEANOTHUS 24 W Haggas 9-7 S Drowne 88
3 (8) 3-30 LOCHLASS 20 S Woods 9-7 W J O'Connor 83
4 (4) 400 INTERDREAM 8 (C,F) R Hannon 9-7 Dane O'Neill [illegible]
5 (7) -660 BE TRUE 10 G L Moore 9-4 Candy Morris 89
6 (1) 0000 INDIAN BLAZE 22 P Harris 9-2 C Lowther (5) 90
7 (5) 0445 CASTLES BURNING 13 C Cyzer 9-1 A Whelan (3) 98
8 (9) -040 MASTER BOBBY 8 R Flower 8-1 J Fowle (7) 73
9 (2) 0403 KEEN WATERS 8 (B) J Arnold 7-10 N Adams 97
10 (6) 06-6 SHE'S ELECTRIC 161 J Bridger 7-10 R Mullen (5) 91

11-4 Interdream, 3-1 Who's That Man, 9-2 Ceanothus, 11-2 Castles Burning, 7-1 Keen Waters, 8-1 Lochlass, 14-1 Be True, 16-1 others.

4.10 JOE BLANKS MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP
(Handicap: 3-Y-O: £3,518: 7f 214yd) (6)

1 (4) 2365 SIGNS AND WONDERS 14 C Cyzer 9-7 W Ryan 98
2 (3) -030 OLIVO 12 C Horgan 9-3 D Holland 97
3 (5) 0310 AROUND FORE ALLISS 19 (BF,D) T Mills 8-11 A Clark 98
4 (1) 0200 CHINGACHGOOK 22 (B) P Haslam 8-10 C Lowther (5) [illegible]
5 (6) 4300 MISTY CAY 8 (C,D,F,G) S Dow 8-10 Dane O'Neill 94
6 (6) -000 CHAIN REACTION 24 (C,F) M Jarvis 8-5 G Carter 98

7-4 Signs And Wonders, 4-1 Misty Cay, 9-2 Olivo, 5-1 Chingachgook, 11-2 Around Fore Alliss, 12-1 Chain Reaction.

4.40 PRESTON PARK LIMITED STAKES
(£2,277: 5f 213yd) (9)

1 (4) 5462 CORNICHE QUEST 8 (C,D,F,G) M Channon 4-9-5 R Hughes 97
2 (3) 4142 RESIST THE FORCE 10 C Cyzer 7-9-5 R Ffrench (3) 87
3 (5) 00-6 AGWA 8 (CD,F) J Bridger 8-9-2 P Doe (7) 88
4 (6) 0300 GWESPYR 13 (F,G) R Hannon 4-9-2 Dane O'Neill [illegible]
5 (2) 2225 SHARP IMP 9 (B,CD,F) R Flower 7-9-2 S Drowne 93
6 (8) 0041 THE FRISKY FARMER 1 (D,F,S) W G M Turner 4-9-2 D McGaffin (7) 84
7 (1) 0-64 ALWAYS GRACE 8 (BF,CD,F) Miss Kelleway 5-8-13 A Clark 67
8 (9) -000 CELANDINE 16 (D,F) A Turnell 4-8-13 A Daly (5) 81
9 (7) 0000 SILVER PURSE 7 (B,D,F) A P Jones 3-8-8 J D Smith (3) 97

3-1 Sharp Imp, 7-2 Corniche Quest, 4-1 Resist The Force, 11-2 Always Grace, 7-1 Celandine, 8-1 The Frisky Farmer, 10-1 Silver Purse, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Brighton: 2.35 Mirror Four Life. 3.10 Mapengo. 4.10 Chingachgook. 4.40 Silver Purse. Sandown Park: 4.25 Mithak.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Bath

Going: firm

2.15 (1m 3f 144yd) 1, PAY HOMAGE (Martin Dwyer, 7-1); 2, Missfortuna (G Duffield, 8-13 fav); 3, Peppers (B Doyle, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Russian Olive, Statajack (5th), 16 Newport Knight (4th), 40 Java Shrine (6th), 100 Western Playboy. 8 ran. Hd, 1l, 5l, nk, 8l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £10.10; £1.60, £1.10, £1.30. DF: £5.80. CSF: £10.65.

2.45 (1m 5yd) 1, BLUE IMPERIAL (M Henry, 5-2 fav); 2, Samara Song (S Sanders, 3-1); 3, Sooty Tern (R Ffrench, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Night Wink (5th), 10 Paddy's Rice (4th), 11 Final Slab, 14 Norman Conquest (6th). 7 ran. 3l, 2½l, ¾l, ¾l, 1l. J Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.90. DF: £3.30. CSF: £8.43.

3.15 (1m 2f 46yd) 1, FARMOST (G Duffield, 4-1); 2, Space Race (K Fallon, 7-2); 3, Danzas (T Sprake, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Alafleak (4th), Polar Champ (5th), 20 Shifting Moon (6th). 6 ran. Sh hd, 5l, 8l, nk, ½l. M Prescott at Newmarket. Tote: £5.20; £1.80, £2.10. DF: £12.40. CSF: £17.42.

3.45 (5f 11yd) 1, ITS ALL RELATIVE (C Lowther, 15-8); 2, Fast Tempo (T Sprake, 6-1); 3, Tempus Fugit (B Doyle, 8-13 fav). 3 ran. NR: Hunkswood. 7l, 2l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £2.60. DF: £4.60. CSF: £8.33.

4.15 (2m 1f 34yd) 1, BRIGHTER BYFAAH (T Sprake, 16-1); 2, Shadiwan (S Sanders, 8-1); 3, Manilleno (Martin Dwyer, 8-6 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Landlord, 3 Coh Sho No (4th), 10 Coleridge (6th), 12 Royal Circus (5th), 20 Beauchamp Knight, 40 Longcroft. 9 ran. Sh hd, 5l, 2½l, 7l, 9l. N Graham at Newmarket. Tote: £22.20; £4.30, £1.40, £1.40. DF: £36.30. Trio: £14.90. CSF: £119.66. Tricast: £244.81.

4.45 (5f 161yd) 1, HARD TO FIGURE (P P Murphy, 10-1); 2, Sharp Pearl (S Whitworth, 10-1); 3, Anselliman (P Roberts, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Kildee Lad (5th), 5 Victory Team, 7 Alkalim (4th), Meranti, 9 Beau Venture (6th). 8 ran. Nk, 1½l, ¾l, sh hd, 5l. R Hodges at Somerton. Tote: £6.90; £2.70, £3.00, £1.80. DF: £45.70. CSF: £89.88. Tricast: £547.95.

Placepot: £123.70.
Quadpot: £78.00.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.30 (5f) 1, CROSS THE BORDER (Alex Greaves, 11-10 fav); 2, Young Ben (G Parkin, 12-1); 3, Imp Express (Dale Gibson, 20-1). 4 Grand Chapeau (J Weaver, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Insider Trader, 8 Pleasure Time, 9 Remyhoime, 10 Jomayo, 20 Blazing Imp (6th), Kalar, Thick As Thieves, 25 Good To Talk, 50 Lennox Lewis, 100 Kabcast (5th), Serious Hurry, Tickle Tickle Timing. 16 ran. NR: Double Matt. 1l, ½l, ¾l, 2l. T A D Nicholls at Thirsk. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £3.30, £2.10, £3.70. DF: £23.90. Trio: £117.40. CSF: £13.62. Tricast: £193.99.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CORNICHE QUEST
(4.40 Brighton)
Next best: Cloudberry
(2.15 Sandown Park)

3.00 (7f) 1, SEMI CIRCLE (L Charnock, 50-1); 2, Ribble Assembly (J Carroll, 100-30); 3, Bint Nadia (T Williams, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Miss Main Street (4th), 8 Jet Set Sirah (5th), 10 Javana, 14 Gay Abandon, Last Lap (6th), 25 Lucienc, Wynbury Flyer, 33 Diamond Steve, 100 Newgale Noblesse. 12 ran. 1¾l, sh hd, 2½l, 6l, nd. T Easterby at Malton. Tote: £82.20; £12.00, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £104.50. Trio: £188.70. CSF: £211.73. No bid.

3.30 (7f) 1, TANCRED TIMES (T Williams, 9-1); 2, Delv (J Stack, 5-2 fav); 3, Erro Codigo (J Fortune, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Durham Flyer (4th), 9-2 Oh Never Again (6th), 10 Three Tenners, 14 Eastwell Minstrel, 20 Petara (5th). 8 ran. 2l, 2½l, 1l, ½l, 1l. D Barker at Richmond. T

CRICKET: BEVAN'S FAILURES FORCE AUSTRALIA TO BRING BACK YOUNG TASMANIAN

Chance for Ponting to relaunch his career

By Simon Wilde

BY REPLACING Michael Bevan with Ricky Ponting in their team today, Australia are making a serious departure from their recent practice in England. It will be the first time they have disturbed their formidable batting line-up during a series here since they surrendered the Ashes in 1985.

Stability being important in the success of any winning team, they could have been forgiven for having left things well alone after their victory at Old Trafford. Bevan's poor form left them with virtually no choice, but Ponting's elevation remains a gamble. He has not played at Headingley before, unlike Bevan, who showed the value of his two seasons with Yorkshire by finishing as top scorer in Australia's innings in the one-day international there in May. In addition, having been left on the fringes since the tour began, Ponting has probably played more golf — he has the lowest handicap of any member of the tour party — than cricket. Indeed, he has played just five first-class innings — three of them in the past week, once it was realised that he was going to be required at Headingley.

Admittedly, one of these yielded an unbeaten century at Cardiff, but, much to Mark Taylor's chagrin, Glamorgan were fielding only a second-string attack. "He will certainly be fresh," the Australia captain conceded yesterday.

Against this, Ponting, 22, is a gifted batsman, the youngest and perhaps potentially the best of Australia's new generation, and it could be argued that, if he takes his chance, he will stay in the side for years to come. In around 100 first-class innings, has scored 17 centuries, a one-in-six ratio that few players of his age have matched.

He is, then, no stop-gap replacement. Indeed, the surprise is that he was not in the team already, but therein lies the tale, for Ponting has been handed the "boy wonder" tag that every talented young Australian batsman should dread. For years, such precocious youths were hailed, wholly unreasonably, as "the next Bradman" and few survived the ordeal. Now, the icons are less forbidding, but the burden remains irksome.

At least Ponting found himself compared to David Boon, his mentor and a man in whose footsteps he has long trod. Like Boon, Ponting was born and bred in Launceston; like Boon, he began in the town's six-team cricket league. Being the first Tasmanian to establish himself as a Test cricketer, Boon has smoothed the path that Ponting follows. Before him, not many Australians regarded Tasmanians as "fair dinkum".

Ponting, though, is blessed with greater natural talent and, being slim and 5ft 10in, a good "fighting weight". He was just 12 when he first made headlines across Australia, scoring a string of centuries in matches among age-group cricketers considerably older than himself. He went to the academy in Adelaide, where he was duly praised by Rodney Marsh as the brightest young talent he had seen.

At first, Ponting handled the praise well. He was no sooner in the Tasmania side — as a teenager — than he was scoring centuries. He made his Test debut against Sri Lanka in Perth in December 1995 and, surviving a first-ball scare, scored 96 before falling victim to an abysmal leg-before decision. In his second match, at Melbourne, he made 71. He went on to play in the World Cup and took a sparkling century off West Indies.

Then, last winter, he was picked ahead of several more senior colleagues to take over the pivotal No 3 position left vacant by Boon's retirement. Within three matches, he was dropped. On the face of it, the decision was harsh, as he played a vital innings of 88 in the defeat of West Indies at Brisbane, but he did little else. In any case, the decision was taken not entirely on cricketing grounds. Ponting, it was rumoured, was living the high life.

The selectors told him to go back and score more runs for Tasmania. "I tried to make it all happen again really quickly," he said, "but it did not work that way in the first couple of games. Looking back, that was exactly the wrong thing to do." Much to his credit, after overcoming his impatience, the runs duly came, earning him a tour place to England.

Thus selection today represents something of a second chance and, in Australian cricket, second chances are about all one gets — but it is a gamble that "Punter", who loves horses almost as much as he does cricket and golf, will be backing himself to win.

Ponting is glad of a breather after a hectic net session at Headingley yesterday

Warwickshire profit after seeing the light

By Ivo Tennant

EVEN Dennis Amiss, the Warwickshire chief executive, felt for Surrey. It was as if the sodden, bedraggled scene at the Oval last month, when not a ball was bowled and not so much as a luminous stump or much-vaunted skydiver was in evidence, had been an optical illusion. Edgbaston last night was so balmy, so iridescent under floodlights, that it was evident this was a day/night Sunday league match that would not end in tears.

By the time the first ball had been bowled, Amiss knew that Warwickshire's gamble — for this kind of cricket in England is never likely to be anything but that — had come off. He had hoped for a crowd of 10,000 and evidently there would be many more than that by the time the traffic, which gridlocked the approach roads to Edgbaston, had cleared and the latecomers, complete with briefcases and barbecues, had settled into the more expensive seats.

"A very warm welcome to everyone," Amiss said, relishing the *double entendre* of his remarks. He would not have tried that if he had thought the rain would be stair-rodding down. "Understandably," he went on, "there are many sceptics who feel day/night cricket in the UK will not work but we believe it would be wrong not to try. We should make £70,000, which is more than from all our championship matches."

So the first Axa Life League match under floodlights swung into life at a bizarre time, 6.10pm, dictated by the unrelenting schedules of television. Quite how everybody would get home shortly before midnight was another matter. The high winds that Amiss, somewhat pessimistically had feared would upset his four floodlights, installed at a cost of £40,000, did not reach Edgbaston. Warwickshire wanted to paint the stumps a luminous pink, but the England and Wales Cricket Board swiftly rejected that.

Warwickshire market themselves in this form of the game as The Bears. They produced a new mascot for this match — Hugh Bear. Not content with that, they invited more mascots — and more bears — from football and basketball teams in Birmingham. There was a bouncy castle (well beyond the boundary) of the kind that other counties would have abhorred. But then, as the spectators during the first Test match this summer proved, some theatricality does not go amiss at Edgbaston.

The Bears were playing Somerset, who do not, as yet, style themselves as The Cidermen. They were also contesting the leadership of the Sunday league table — and it showed as Smith and Singh took them past 100 in the first 20 overs without being parted. Most important of all, though, they knew that this would be a litmus test of whether day/night cricket in a temperate climate could work at Test level. Amiss, and delegates from other counties, will have reckoned after this that indeed it can.

Warwickshire, it should be noted, have long been an innovative county. In the 1960s they had a scheme to raise money for the redevelopment of the ground through selling a form of lottery ticket. They loaned money to more impoverished counties — not least Essex, who are more sniffy than most about this type of cricket.

They introduced the Brumbrella, a novel form of covering the whole ground. Amiss was the first batsman to wear a crash helmet — as distinct from Mike Brearley's skullcap — in county cricket in 1978. It was no surprise to see that their latest idea would prove extremely attractive.

Rollins sets rollicking pace

By Michael Austin

CHESTERFIELD (first day of four; Glamorgan won toss): Derbyshire have scored 379 for four wickets against Glamorgan

TEAMS at the top may be supposed to roll over those at the bottom but the favoured script was impertinently rewritten at at Queen's Park yesterday where Adrian Rollins became only the ninth Derbyshire player to score a century before lunch. Glamorgan, despite their lofty position, were swiftly careworn following their bizarre decision to field.

Rollins, with 29 fours in a 180-ball innings of 148, shared the county's fourth-highest opening partnership of 247 with Michael May, who barely figured in the now-defunct Dean Jones regime. May, Chesterfield-born and 26 last Tuesday, scored a maiden championship hundred from 184 balls, added to a century against Pakistan A earlier this month. It was his fourth score above 50 in 11 first-class innings.

Glamorgan, without Robert Croft, looked out of sorts. Waqar Younis and Steve Watkin, both recently injured, bowled too short and too wide. May, an enthusiastic and expert cutter, harvested runs in the cover point and third-man areas with a regularity that became almost monotonous. Rollins drove productively, hit 12 fours in a 34-ball half-century, reached a hundred six minutes before lunch and headed on remorselessly into the afternoon.

Dean Cosker, Glamorgan's young slow left-armer, maintained a tantalising length and line that shamed the more senior bowlers. He deserved the wicket of Rollins, beaten in flight and caught at short extra cover, which brought in Chris Adams as May's protector.

Adams unselfishly maintained the rapid scoring tempo, allowing May to soldier on without feeling under pressure. Waqar eventually bowled Adams through the gate but curiously fired in few yorkers during his four spells.

The irony will not be lost on Derbyshire that they were also put in by Hampshire at Queen's Park last month, scored 523 and lost by seven wickets. A repetition seems highly unlikely.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Glamorgan

CHESTERFIELD (first day of four; Glamorgan won toss): Derbyshire have scored 379 for four wickets against Glamorgan

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

A S Rollins c James b Cosker	148
M R May c James b Watkin	116
C J Adams b Waqar	46
K J Barnett c Shaw b Waqar	29
M J Vandrau not out	11
A J Harris not out	6
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 8, nb 7)	23
Total (4 wkts, 104 overs)	379

V P Clarke, †K M Krikken, *P A J DeFreitas, P Aldred and D E Malcolm to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-247, 2-324, 3-345, 4-372

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 17-1-69-2; Watkin 20-4-90-1. Butcher 9-3-38-0; Thomas 14-2-70-0; Dale 8-2-33-0; Cosker 34-13-65-1 Maynard 2-0-8-0.

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, A Dale, *M P Maynard, P A Cottey, G P Butcher, †A D Shaw, S D Thomas, Waqar Younis, S L Watkin, D A Cosker.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Glamorgan 1

Umpires: J D Bond and V A Holder

Essex v Worcestershire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four, Worcestershire won toss) Worcestershire have scored 328 for six wickets against Essex

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

*T M Moody lbw b Such	45
T S Curtis c Cowan b Andrew	33
G A Hick lbw b S G Law	14
K R Spiring not out	119
G R Haynes c S G Law b Such	4
D A Leatherdale c Rollins b Such	21
V S Solanki c Gooch b S G Law	60
M Rawnsley not out	7
Extras (lb 5, w 4, nb 16)	25
Total (6 wkts, 104 overs)	328

†S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt and A Sheriyar to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-53, 2-98, 3-128, 4-138, 5-166, 6-317.

BOWLING: Cowan 9-0-49-0; D R Law 15-4-46-0, Andrew 12-2-20-1; Irani 16-1-56-0; Such 31-8-92-3; S G Law 7-1-20-2; Grayson 14-4-40-0

ESSEX: G A Gooch, *P J Prichard, D D J Robinson, S G Law, R C Irani, A P Grayson, D R Law, †R J Rollins, S J W Andrew, A P Cowan, P M Such

Bonus points: Essex 2 Worcestershire 3

Umpires: J W Holder and G I Burgess

Gloucestershire v Durham

CHELTENHAM (first day of four; Durham won toss): Gloucestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 167 runs ahead of Durham

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis lbw b Young	1
M A Roseberry c Davis b Young	9
J E Morris c Davis b Alleyne	32
N J Speak c Wright b Alleyne	22
*D C Boon c Russell b Alleyne	0
†M P Speight c Ball b Lewis	0
M J Foster c Ball b Young	6
J Boiling lbw b Lewis	0
J Wood c Davis b Alleyne	9
S J E Brown c Averis b Alleyne	0
A Walker not out	1
Extras (lb6)	6
Total (35.2 overs)	86

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-21, 3-61, 4-65, 5-70, 6-70, 7-70, 8-85, 9-85

BOWLING: Young 10-4-9-3; Lewis 12-4-35-2; Averis 5-2-22-0; Alleyne 8.2-2-14-5.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright lbw b Brown	0
M G N Windows c Speight b Brown	75
T H C Hancock c & b Wood	7
M A Lynch lbw b Brown	1
S Young c Speight b Brown	52
*M W Alleyne not out	77
†R C Russell not out	17
Extras (lb 8, w 2, nb 14)	24
Total (5 wkts, 66 overs)	253

M C J Ball, J Lewis, J M M Averis and R P Davis to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-23, 3-29, 4-144, 5-185

BOWLING: Brown 17-4-71-4, Wood 13-3-44-1; Foster 11-1-53-0; Walker 15-3-46-0. Boiling 9-3-29-0; Boon 1-0-2-0

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 4 Durham 0

Umpires: J C Balderstone and K E Palmer

Hampshire v Lancashire

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Lancashire have scored 423 for five wickets against Hampshire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

J E R Gallian lbw b Bovill	10
N T Wood c Smith b Udal	82
N H Fairbrother run out	5
G D Lloyd c Smith b Udal	90
A Flintoff c and b Stephenson	117
*M Watkinson not out	102
D J Shadford not out	5
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 2)	12
Total (5 wkts, 104 overs)	423

I D Austin, †W K Hegg, G Yates and P J Martin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-33, 3-191, 4-194, 5-408

BOWLING: Bovill 22-5-83-1; Milburn 27-4-94-0, Stephenson 25-7-68-1; Udal 20-2-111-2; Maru 8-2-40-0; Keech 2-0-17-0.

HAMPSHIRE: J S Laney, M L Hayden, K D James, R A Smith, M Keech, *J P Stephenson, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, R J Maru, S M Milburn, J N B Bovill.

Bonus points: Hampshire 2 Lancashire 4.

Umpires: D R Shepherd and P Willey.

Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 296 for nine wickets against Leicestershire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

G E Welton c Nixon b Millns	0
*R T Robinson c Nixon b Wells	32
M P Dowman not out	125
N J Astle c Smith b Mullally	13
G F Archer c Nixon b Johnson	30
U Afzaal c Nixon b Millns	22
C M Tolley c Pierson b Ormond	26
†W M Noon lbw b Pierson	3
P J Franks b Ormond	6
M N Bowen b Mullally	4
A R Oram not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 12, w 4, nb 18)	35
Total (9 wkts, 107 overs)	296

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-10, 2-51, 3-67, 4-131, 5-206, 6-244, 7-251, 8-273, 9-294

BOWLING: Millns 17-2-71-2; Mullally 28-7-69-2, Wells 9-4-16-1; Ormond 20-7-54-2; Pierson 27-11-36-1; Johnson 6-3-17-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE: V J Wells, D L Maddy, I J Sutcliffe, B F Smith, *J J Whitaker, N C Johnson, †P A Nixon, D J Millns, A R K Pierson, J Ormond, A D Mullally.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4 Nottinghamshire 2.

Umpires: A A Jones and R A White

Middlesex v Kent

LORD'S (first day of four; Kent won toss): Middlesex, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 105 runs behind Kent

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton c Hewitt b Fraser	4
E T Smith b Fraser	10
T R Ward c Brown b Hewitt	0
A P Wells c Pooley b Tufnell	63
M J Walker c Brown b Fraser	8
M V Fleming c Shah b Johnson	44
P A Strang c Weekes b Hewitt	12
*†S A Marsh c Shah b Tufnell	40
B J Phillips c Kallis b Weekes	12
M J McCague b Tufnell	3
A P Igglesden not out	0
Extras (lb 4, w 4, nb 4)	12
Total (72.3 overs)	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-16, 3-16, 4-24, 5-86, 6-102, 7-187, 8-202, 9-206

BOWLING. Fraser 14-2-45-3; Hewitt 13-4-41-2; Kallis 12-2-40-0; Johnson 12-3-29-1, Tufnell 12.5-21-3; Weekes 9.3-0-28-1.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P N Weekes b Igglesden	12
J H Kallis c Wells b Igglesden	10
*M R Ramprakash lbw b McCague	5
M W Gatting b McCague	41
J C Pooley b McCague	1
O A Shah lbw b Phillips	13
A R C Fraser c Strang b McCague	0
†K R Brown c Strang b McCague	0
R L Johnson c Strang b McCague	0
J P Hewitt not out	3
Extras (b 12, lb 4, w 2)	18
Total (9 wkts, 31 overs)	103

P C R Tufnell to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-27, 3-33, 4-56, 5-82, 6-84, 7-84, 8-84, 9-100.

BOWLING: McCague 15-4-49-6; Igglesden 7-0-23-2; Phillips 4-2-8-1; Strang 5-2-7-0

Bonus points: Middlesex 4 Kent 5

Umpires: J H Hampshire and D J Constant.

Northamptonshire v Surrey

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Surrey won toss): Surrey have scored 386 for four wickets against Northamptonshire

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell c Taylor b Snape	162
J D Ratcliffe c and b Taylor	31
I J Ward c Warren b Boswell	7
*A J Hollioake run out	81
A D Brown not out	63
B C Hollioake not out	18
Extras (lb 6, w 2, nb 16)	24
Total (4 wkts, 104 overs)	386

C C Lewis, †J N Batty, M P Bicknell, I D K Salisbury and J E Benjamin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-73, 3-248, 4-332

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 18-2-81-0; Taylor 18-2-88-1; Penberthy 13-3-39-0; Boswell 16-2-68-1; Snape 38-3-99-1; Bailey 11-2-25-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: D J Roberts, R J Warren, A Fordham, *R J Bailey, D J G Sales, A L Penberthy, †D Ripley, J N Snape, J P Taylor, S A J Boswell, Mohammad Akram.

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 1 Surrey 4

Umpires: J H Harris and A G T Whitehead.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): Chester-le-Street: Nottinghamshire 35-1 v Durham. Pontypridd: Glamorgan 402-8 dec (R V Almond 149, A W Evans 100, A P Davis 62); Hampshire 14-0.

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): Canterbury: Sussex 212-9 (M Newell 93); Kent 193-7 (N J Llong 63). Sussex won by 19 runs. Uxbridge: Middlesex 221 (D C Nash 77; M A Sharpe 6-25); Minor Counties 218 (A D Mawson 51). Middlesex won by three runs. Bedford School: Leicestershire 284 (D Stevens 108; J A R Blain 4-39): Northamptonshire 288-5 (A Fordham 169) Northamptonshire won by five wickets.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Brockhampton: Hereford 225-5 dec (J P Wright 95, H V Patel 80) and 41-0; Cheshire 209-6 dec (I Cockbain 102 not out).

TRIPLE CROWN TOURNAMENT (50 overs): Stourbridge: England XI 209 (49.2 overs, J Robinson 73); Ireland 190 (48.2, A Patterson 69) England XI beat Ireland by 19 runs. Wolverhampton: Scotland 245-6 (B Patterson 85, G Salmond 51); Wales 243-5 (A Dalton 86, S Maddock 57, G Williamson 4-39). Scotland beat Wales by two runs.

THE TIMES
SPORTSLINE

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

CRICKET
Reports and scores from the fourth Test at Headingley
Call 0891 881 461
Reports and scores from the Britannic Assurance county championship
Call 0891 525 019

Calls cost 50p per minute

Dowman begins to fulfil promise

By Rupert Cox

LEICESTER (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 296 for nine wickets against Leicestershire

FOUR years ago, Matthew Dowman amassed 267 against West Indies in an under-19 match, creating a weight of expectation that he has yet to fulfil at first-class level. However, at Grace Road yesterday, in making his second century of the season, after scoring 96 against Warwickshire in his last championship innings, Dowman exhibited the sort of consistency that Nottinghamshire, with just five batting points, desperately seek.

On a relaid wicket, James Whitaker elected to field on a verdant surface and will have felt vindicated when Millns had Welton caught behind off a ball that rose viciously. With the wicket came the sunshine, though, and thereafter the bowling lacked the sort of penetration once provided by Phil Simmons, whose return as overseas player next year was confirmed yesterday.

Dowman, a 23-year-old left-hander, survived a nervous start to play with increasing panache off either foot. His 125 spanned 312 balls and contained 23 fours.

Robinson, the next-highest scorer on 32, seemed to be playing with a fluency that hinted at a return to form, only for Nixon to hold a fine diving catch off Wells, one of four catches to the wicketkeeper.

CRICKETLINE
ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA
EXCLUSIVE LIVE COMMENTARY
0930 161 567
REPORTS & SCORES
0930 161 555
THE OFFICIAL SERVICE OF THE ENGLAND & WALES CRICKET BOARD

THE TIMES

OI REF, GOLD CARD.

Interactive Team Football. Start playing for the £50,000 fi[illegible]
See the free Football '97-'98 Supplement in Monday's [illegible]

http://www.the-times.co.uk
CHANGING TIMES

CRICKET

McCague seizes initiative with decisive flourish

By Michael Henderson

LORD'S (first day of four: Kent won toss): Middlesex, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 105 runs behind Kent

AFTER an interesting day's play, ultimately dominated by Martin McCague, Kent claimed a clear advantage in the final session. Middlesex were blown along by a helpful breeze in the morning, but after tea, when McCague bowled with searing pace and finished the day with six for 49 off 15 overs, Kent sensed a wicket with every ball. He, alone, has managed to shape the game.

Batting is not an impossible task. The pitch is short of real pace, although it is sufficiently lively to help the new ball to go through at a decent height, as McCague displayed when he nearly took Shah's nose off. Kent should have done a lot better than make 208 and Middlesex did not distinguish themselves in the last session, when they lost nine wickets. Only Gatting looked at all comfortable, but, like five of his team-mates, his defiance was undone by McCague for 41 when Middlesex had barely reached a hundred.

After slightly less than an hour's play, Kent were 24 for four when Walker, who was superbly caught by Brown as he dived low to his left, obliged Fraser with a third wicket in ten balls. Take away the 63 that Wells made and the forties of Fleming and Marsh, and there was little to commend.

As Fraser had started, so Tufnell finished. Although he bowled one over before lunch, it was not until the 52nd over of the innings that Ramprakash thought him worthy of a proper bowl. In his 12 overs, the man who cannot get a game for England this summer, because "the pitches don't suit", had Wells and Marsh caught on the sweep, and turned one past McCague's bat.

Wells had earned his runs, after labouring through 54 overs to hold Kent together. Their early order batting lacks discipline. How else does one account for Fulton's dismissal, caught hooking on the long leg boundary in the ninth over when two men are already back in the pavilion? What a daft way to go.

There is no point berating Fleming for indiscipline. If he had gone to Marlborough, whose first XI were in the news this week for a scholarship display of blocking, he would surely have been sent down for playing too many strokes. In no time at all, he was pulling Hewitt over the rope at square leg and, when he was not trying to take on the bowlers, he was defending extravagantly as if to prove that he could control his instincts.

According to Fleming, Kent are "heavyweights" in one-day cricket, which seems a strange way to describe a team that won its last knockout trophy 20 years ago. An hour's batting was long enough for him. Swishing to leg, he was caught in the deep. It was left to Wells and Marsh to carry the team to a bonus point.

Igglesden, playing only his second championship match of the summer, took his first wickets for two years when Kallis edged a low catch to slip and Weekes played on. To McCague, who bowled with real hostility, fell Ramprakash and Pooley, Fraser, Brown and Johnson, all caught by Strang, and, finally, Gatting, clean bowled.

Flintoff signs off with his maiden century

By Pat Gibson

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Lancashire have scored 423 for five wickets against Hampshire

ANDREW FLINTOFF scored his maiden first-class century in his last match for Lancashire before leaving to captain the England Under-19 team and, in the process, questioned the argument that young men such as him would be better off continuing to learn their trade in championship cricket.

Even Zimbabwe Under-19 should be able to present a sterner test than Hampshire did yesterday. They knew what they were in for when they lost the toss on a flat pitch and lightning outfield and the only surprise was that Lancashire did not take full advantage until Flintoff and his captain, Watkinson, who also made a hundred, helped themselves in a fifth-wicket partnership of 214 in 43 overs.

Gallian, who was leg-before for ten in Bovill's opening spell, and Fairbrother, who ran himself out for five, must have cursed themselves. Graham Lloyd and Nathan Wood may have a bit of explaining to do as well, if their fathers hear about how they threw away centuries that were there for the taking.

Lloyd, who always gives the bowlers a chance, was dropped on 33 but seemed to be heading inexorably for a hundred when he drove Udal to long-on, having struck 16 fours in his 90. Two overs later, Wood drove Udal to mid-off and was out for a career-best 82.

It was to be the last success that Udal enjoyed. Watkinson hit him for four sixes, two of which cleared the pavilion, while Flintoff, growing in confidence after being dropped on 12, had plundered 22 fours and a six when he was caught and bowled by Stephenson for 117.

STEFAN ROUSSEAU

Gooch, right, offers the benefit of his experience to Law at Chelmsford yesterday

Spotlight fades on Gooch

By Jack Bailey

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 328 for six wickets against Essex

IT WAS Graham Gooch's day — MPs tabling motions of congratulations, the town crier putting in an appearance at the Chelmsford ground and the man himself receiving a standing ovation as he led Essex out amid a posse of photographers. It was, of course, his 44th birthday and his last appearance for Essex, but there everyone paused, for Worcestershire chose to bat and they batted all day, having been dug out of a hole by a century from Reubens Spiring.

Nor did Gooch get a bowl, although his career-best of seven for 14 was against Worcestershire — but that was in 1982 and time has marched on. Gooch did come half into the limelight reasonably early on, although in an unwanted way. When Spiring had made 70, he skied over the head of Grayson, the bowler, equidistant between Gooch and Cowan at deep mid-on and deep mid-off respectively. Instead of one or both going for the catch, the fielders compromised. Neither got near the ball and Spiring went on.

He played sensibly, with his pronounced backlift and peculiarly restricted follow-through. His century came in a little more than three hours, he hit 14 fours and, together with Vikram Solanki — himself missed from a caught-and-bowled chance by Such with only a single to his name — he added 151 for the sixth wicket, after Worcestershire had been reduced to 166 for five.

All this Gooch business affected Tim Curtis in a peculiar way. Opening with Moody, he forsook his customary static role, moving swiftly and easily to 33 of the 53 put on for the first wicket. He fell to Andrew, putting in a rare first-team appearance but now producing a ball that lifted sharply.

As Moody struggled on, Such dominated, varying his flight and straightening the odd ball. Hick looked good before he played no stroke at Stuart Law.

Then Such moved swiftly through the order. Moody was leg-before on the sweep, Haynes snapped up at silly mid-off. Leatherdale promised much until he also fell to Such as he cut unwisely. It was then roughly halfway through the day's play. Prospects of Gooch batting loomed large, but the game of cricket never was a great respecter of expectation.

Until, that is, Solanki failed to get on top of a ball from Law, the ball lobbed up and Gooch moved forward to take a low catch at short mid-on. Gooch was in the game at last, but not as much as young Spiring, the Worcestershire saviour and undefeated to the end.

Alleyne's all-round skills too much for Durham

By Derek Hodgson

CHELTENHAM (first day of four: Durham won toss): Gloucestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 167 runs ahead of Durham

CLEEVE HILL was misty at the start, prompting the question: what damage would Mike Smith have done had he not been required by England? All that can be said is that his colleagues did not need him on a steamy, swinging morning as Mark Alleyne, his captain took a career-best five for 14 in a Durham rout, 86 being their lowest first-innings total.

Gloucestershire then lost three wickets for 24 on a fine, clear afternoon, but there was little wrong with the pitch. Batsmen were surprised by late movement and, in Durham's case, it takes little to bring the whole house tumbling down.

It will be a shame if this is another match that finishes early, because this festival is one of the great remaining institutions and needs to be protected, sometimes from itself. The club marquees still stand handsomely around the boundary, but the standard of refreshment on offer to the general public has become either gruesome or expensive — or both.

Only John Morris, who once made 229 for Derbyshire on this ground, and Nick Speak offered prolonged resistance, Morris's departure, to a sharp, high nick when driving Alleyne, signalling a virtual surrender, with the remaining seven wickets going down in 12 overs for 24 runs.

Gloucestershire's close fielding was, as usual, high class, with two fast, low dives by Martyn Ball and Jack Russell worth recording on film. Their innings began almost as hesitantly as Durham's, but Matthew Windows provided the necessary application. Shaun Young laid about him and Durham's score was passed within 90 minutes. Windows's 75 came off 127 balls and contained 11 fours. Alleyne's timing then matched a serene evening.

Kumble to be given chance of making return trip

By Richard Hobson

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Surrey won toss): Surrey have scored 386 for four wickets against Northamptonshire

THE Wantage Road ground was awash with speculation yesterday as Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, confirmed that negotiations have reached an "advanced stage" with an overseas player, believed to be Anil Kumble, for next season.

While Coverdale confirmed that the county has twice sounded out Shane Warne during the Australians' tour, he denied that an offer had been made. The fact that Warne has been linked with the captaincy also prompted what amounted to a vote of confidence in Rob Bailey, the present captain.

"Speculation is deeply upsetting to Rob, his family and those close to the club," Coverdale said. However, the issue will be reviewed at the end of the season.

It is impossible not to sympathise with Bailey. On this showing, he does not have much of an bowling attack to manipulate. He is acknowledged as one of the most pleasant men in the game and, after the victory over Essex on Saturday, said that he felt like performing a lap of honour in delight.

Any running around the boundary in this fixture is likely to be in pursuit of the ball. How he could have done with Kumble, the India leg spinner, who took 105 wickets for the club in 1995, rather than the wayward Mohammad Akram.

Darren Bicknell scored 162 on a straw-coloured pitch offering even bounce and a little turn for Snape, the off spinner. He hit 24 fours in 348 minutes before a tired pull found Taylor at mid-wicket. Neither he nor Adam Hollioake toiled for runs during a third-wicket stand of 175.

A fine throw from Penberthy accounted for Hollioake Sr, but even this presented a problem for Northamptonshire, as it introduced Alistair Brown to a tired attack.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

All the players in the deal below have played international bridge. Geir Helgemo performed immaculately — he was dummy. The others made three mistakes in the space of five cards.

Dealer West — Love all — IMPs

North: ♠K54 ♥Q1085 ♦Q9 ♣K984

West: ♠8 ♥J432 ♦KJ654 ♣J52

East: ♠10976 ♥987 ♦32 ♣AQ76

South: ♠AQJ32 ♥AK ♦A1087 ♣103

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: two of hearts

In the auction South showed a good hand with at least five spades and four diamonds. As West I led a heart and declarer won with the ace. He cashed the ace and queen of spades (I discarded a club), then the king of hearts, and played a third spade to dummy on which I discarded a diamond. After cashing the queen of hearts he led the queen of diamonds, running it to my king to leave this position:

North: ♠— ♥10 ♦9 ♣K984

West: ♠— ♥J ♦J65 ♣J5

East: ♠9 ♥— ♦2 ♣AQ76

South: ♠J3 ♥— ♦A108 ♣10

I switched to the jack of clubs, which went to the king and ace and Brian Senior (East) returned a diamond. Declarer finessed, I won the jack and played the jack of hearts. Declarer ruffed, drew the last trump and claimed the last two tricks in diamonds.

Bit early in the morning for you? Senior asked (the match had started at 11am), commenting sympathetically on my failure to give him a diamond ruff. He might well have addressed the question first to himself and secondly to the declarer before attacking me. If East had played the queen of clubs after winning the ace the declarer would have to ruff, and now after he had drawn the last trump I would have been able to cash the jack of hearts when I won the jack of diamonds. As it was, all declarer had to do on East's diamond return in the diagrammed position was win with the ace, draw trumps and concede a diamond to me.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Chess for children

Sixteen junior champions emerged at the Nottingham "Gigafinal" of the UK Chess children's challenge on Sunday July 13, from a field of 410 players. These contestants each headed their section winning a cup and £70 and now go forward to the final stage of this marathon eight-month event. This will be held at the Royal Festival Hall, London on Saturday August 23.

Competition in the "gigafinal" was so intense that only three of last year's winners were able to win a title for the second year running — they were Sarah Hegarty, Teresa Khoo and Lucy Broomfield. The tournament was sponsored by Kasparov Chess Computers who will be sending each of the finalists a chess computer.

Six-year-old wins

In the preceding simultaneous display, woman grandmaster Susan Lalic, top board for the England women's team, amazingly lost a game to David Howell, 6.

White: David Howell
Black: Susan Lalic

Rotary Chess Simultaneous 1997

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nf3	dxe4
4	Ng5	Nf6
5	Bc4	h6
6	Nh3	Nc6
7	c3	e5
8	Be3	Bxh3
9	gxh3	exd4
10	cxd4	Bd6
11	Nc3	Qd7
12	Qb3	Na5
13	Qb5	Nxc4
14	Qxc4	0-0
15	Rg1	Kh7
16	d5	Rae8
17	Rd1	Qxh3
18	Rd4	Qxh2
19	Kf1	Qh3+
20	Ke2	Be5
21	Rdd1	Qf5
22	b3	Bxc3
23	Qxc3	Nxd5
24	Qxg7	

Checkmate

Diagram of final position

Mind Sports Olympiad

As well as hosting the final of the UK Chess Challenge, the Royal Festival Hall will also accommodate the first Mind Sports Olympiad which will take place at London's from August 18 to 24. This will consist of over 30 thinking sports, and entry details can be obtained on 0171-485 9146 or access website:

http://www.mindsports.co.uk/

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DIKAMALI
a. A South African canoe
b. A twin-set
c. Gum

CHORASMIAN WASTE
a. Scrap precious metal
b. A plateau in Uzbeck
c. A chorus girl's figure

FILACER
a. A court officer
b. A young racehorse
c. An oak tree

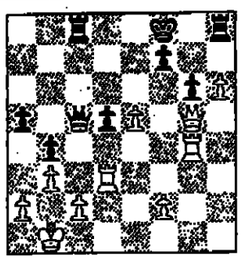
DRAGEE
a. A deep sea trawl
b. A fancy dress dancer
c. A medicinal sweet

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

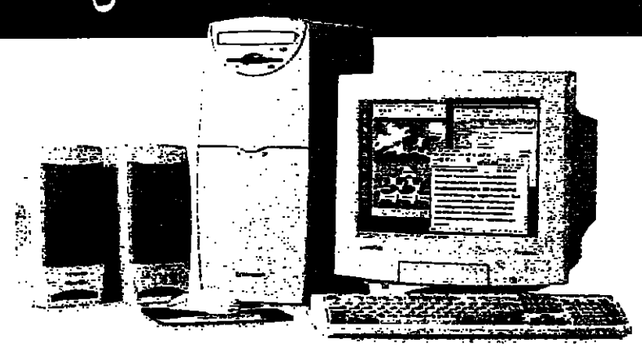
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Eppinger — Blass, Lugano 1985. In chess, the relative activity of the pieces is an important criterion for judging a position. Here all of White's pieces are active, while Black's king's rook is not participating in the game at all. Therefore it is not surprising that White can force a quick win. Can you see how?



Solution on page 46

Holy Cow! What a PC!



The Gateway 2000® G6-233SP is outstanding in the multimedia computer field.

Check out what we've packed inside this PC — an Intel 233MHz Pentium II Processor, a huge 3.2GB hard drive, loads of memory, a great sound system with cool speakers, excellent graphics, a 17-inch CrystalScan monitor and a top-notch voice/fax modem. And that's just the hardware!

This Gateway 2000 system comes with Microsoft Windows 95 and a Starter Software Bundle which includes: Mr Wonder's Greatest Toyshop, Kai's Power Goo, Gearheads, Putt-Putt goes to the Moon, Rosetta Stone Power Pack, Wordstuff and Actua Soccer. When your system arrives, just push a button and you'll be computing in no time!

At Gateway 2000, we care about you. That's why we offer you award-winning service and support, including free telephone technical support on all our hardware and software for as long as you own your computer. You also get a 30-day no-quibble money-back guarantee (shipping costs not refundable) and Gateway 2000 warranties.

And the best part, the price! Gateway 2000 is *the* spot to buy a PC — give us a call today!

G6-233SP

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 512K 15ns Pipeline Burst L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 12X min/16X max 120ms CD-ROM Drive
- Quantum™ 3.2GB 10ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Promise Ultra ATA Controller
- Ensoniq® Wavetable 32-bit PCI SoundCard
- Altec® Lansing ACS41 7W Speakers
- STB® VIRGE™ GX 3D Graphics Accelerator with 4MB EDO RAM, 170MHz RAMDAC
- US Robotics Sportster Winmodem® with x2 Technology
- 17" CrystalScan® 0.28dp Monitor®
- ATX Tower Case: 5 External & 3 Internal Drive Bays
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 105 Keyboard
- MS® Windows 95, MS IntelliMouse™
- Starter Software Bundle
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£1499 (£1795.40 inc. VAT & Delivery)*

Drop by the Gateway 2000 Showroom: 10 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HE. You'll be glad you did!

Showroom Hours of Business:
12.30 pm – 6.30 pm Mondays
9.30 am – 6.30 pm Tuesday – Friday
10.00 am – 4.00 pm Saturdays
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

*Offer closes when the cows come home today (24th July '97)

Flexible Business Finance Options Available. Please call for details.

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."®
0800 74 2000
http://www.gw2k.co.uk

MMX™ intel inside pentium®II

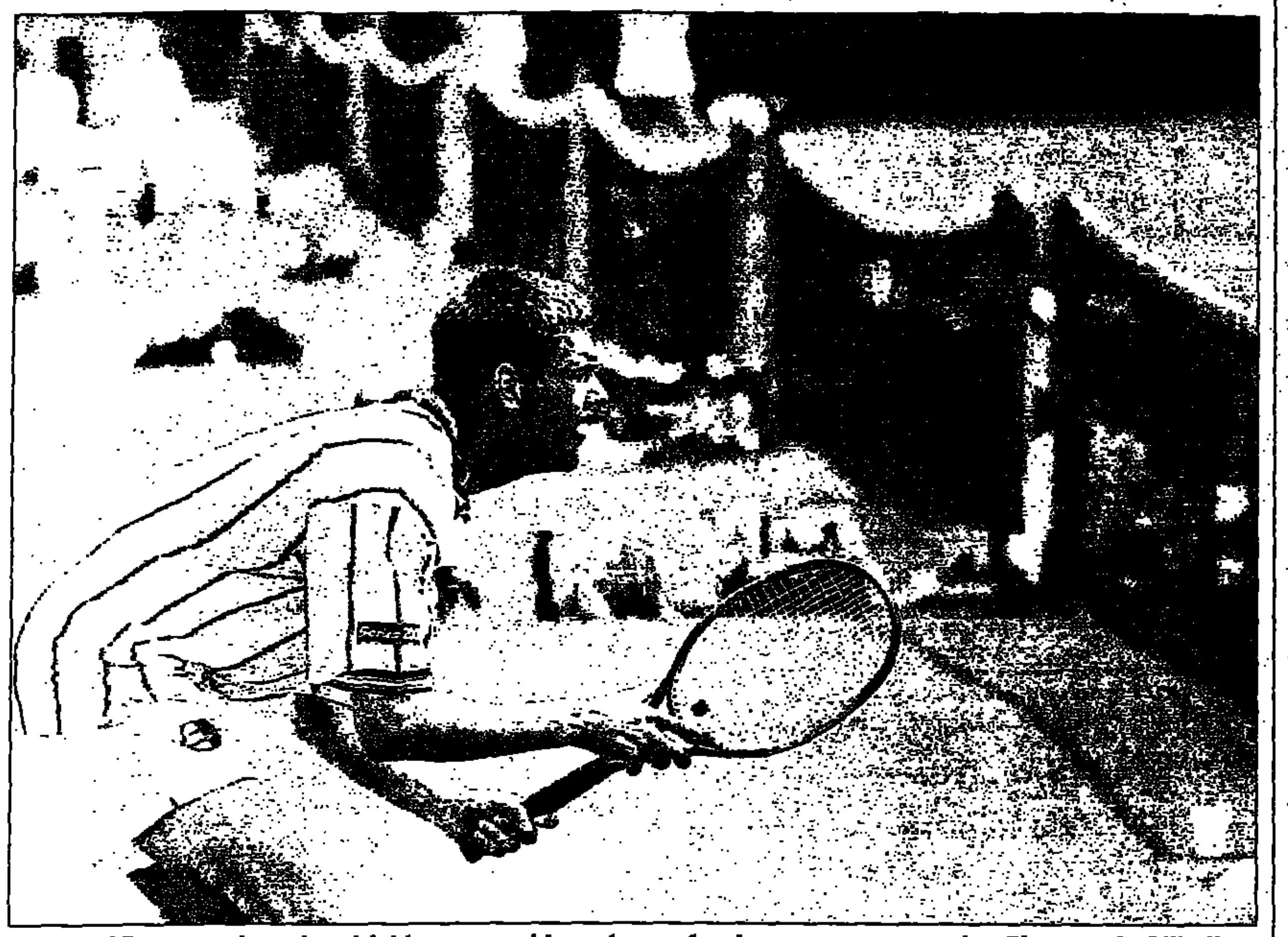
Gateway 2000 • Clonshaugh Industrial Estate • Dublin 17 • Ireland

©1997 Gateway 2000 Europe. Black-and-white spot design, "G" logo, "You've got a friend in the business" slogan, CrystalScan and Gateway 2000 are trademarks or registered trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices quoted in Sterling. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions and limited warranty. 'Industry standard practice is to measure monitors using the CRT tube. Actual viewing area can be approx. 1.2" less.

Devon rise to role of court jesters

JULIAN MUSCAT

At County Tennis Week



Wood, of Devon, a winner in a drinking contest this week, goes for victory on court yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Other counties will testify that the prospect of beating Devon increases with the progress of the Inter-County Cup. Play them on Monday and you will catch them at their best; play them on Friday and the collective strains of the week may have taken their toll. Devon are the *hommes terribles* of county week, the boys who play hard both on and off the court.

As much was evident at Eastbourne yesterday when, on another sweltering afternoon, the sextet arrived for the match with Hampshire and Isle Of Wight clad as Father Christmas. They sang: "Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way. Oh what fun it is to see Hampshire lose today."

"That was the only time I've ever been embarrassed to represent Devon," Peter Russell, the "Greg Rusedski" of the team, who joined Devon after gaining his first taste of this competition in Gloucestershire colours, said. Such antics have come to be expected among county week regulars. Some raise a knowing smile, while others are less generous. The boys themselves remain nonplussed.

"We don't want to offend anyone," Gary Drake, a former national junior champion, whose penchant for dalliances has already seen him grace the tabloid front pages, said. "We are just enjoying the week, doing nothing more than having a few beers. It is strictly a boys' deal." Any late-night disturbances at the Grand Hotel, where all the players are staying, are attributed to them — a touch unjustly, as it turned out on Tuesday night. The end-of-week disco was promptly cancelled.

This Devon team mirrors the spirit of West Country supporters who journey to Twickenham for the rugby union county championship final. They cock a snook along the way and have long ceased to be concerned at their reputation. "Everyone expects us to look like a bunch of idiots, so we don't mind," Daniel Ahl, 27, said. It was he who decreed that the team descended for dinner last night dressed as Nigel, a loud and tasteless character from the television soap, *EastEnders*.

This jovial approach does not extend to the courts, where Devon completed a remarkable rise from group seven, in as many years, to emerge as county champions in 1994. They successfully defended the title the following year, the Inter-County Cup centenary, and were dismayed that no Devonian tennis dignitary was present to witness either victory. Now they play only for themselves — a tribute to the spirit characteristic of their rise from obscurity.

Results 42

Ahl epitomises the players' commitment to each other. This is his tenth consecutive county week; by tomorrow, he will have played for 50 unbroken days. He was an usher at the weddings of both Drake and Gary Stewart; the latter chose Drake as his best man. Ahl is threatening to emigrate to Australia, so Jamie Bartlett, a Cambridge Blue and an economics undergraduate, must raise the money to repatriate him next year.

Mingling easily with the residents are Tom Hand and Steve Wood, their occasional American twangs a legacy of their university tennis scholarships in the United States. Then there is Peter Wright, identified by his peers as the best dancer among them.

Once again, Devon's men are acquitting themselves well on court. Victories on Monday and Tuesday were followed yesterday by a creditable performance in defeat against Hampshire and Isle of Wight, a match they never expected to win. Come tomorrow, with their status in group one already assured, they may decree the highlight of the week to be the victory for Wood, their rookie, in a beer-drinking contest against Stuart Rhodes, from Surrey. It showed that the youngsters of Devon are well placed to further their county's tradition at Eastbourne.

CYCLING: TEAM MAN EMERGES FROM PACK TO TAKE SPOTLIGHT WITH STAGE WIN IN TOUR DE FRANCE

Loyal support earns Stephens his big break

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN COLMAR

NEIL STEPHENS, the Australian who now lives in Spain with his Basque wife, rode to the biggest win of his 13-year professional career in the Alsace town of Colmar yesterday after slipping clear of a small group of riders in the closing kilometres of the seventeenth stage of the Tour de France.

Stephens, one of the most respected and loyal team riders, or *domestiques*, in the professional bunch, has twice come close to Tour glory in the past, most notably last year when he was set to win in Villeneuve-sur-Lot before a crash close to the finish ruined his chances.

"This is the best win of my life," he said as he was congratulated by his Festina team-mates. "Lots of times in the past, I haven't been able to ride for myself. This is the first time that I've been in such a strong team and been allowed the freedom to try for a stage win."

In pouring rain, the depleted field rolled out of Fribourg and headed north towards the border towns of the Rhine Valley. In spite of having talked openly of quitting the race the previous evening, the defending champion, Bjarne Riis, 33, from Denmark, was one of the 143 riders huddling inside rain capes as they started the ride of 218 kilometres to Colmar.

For the first time, Riis, who has been troubled by a stomach bug, publicly criticised his Telekom team, which again grouped around Jan Ullrich, 23, their race leader, and failed to delegate a single rider to look after the Dane as he struggled to keep up.

Ullrich, with the race passing within 30 kilometres of his home in the Black Forest, was the centre of attention as thousands of German fans lined the road. "I didn't know that there were that many people in Germany," he said after finishing safely with the main field.

Stephens's initial attack came after 62 kilometres, when he tried his hand with a solo break, but the move gathered pace when he was joined by 12 other riders 20 kilometres later on the climb on the Côte de Develier.

Results, page 42

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *42*

DIKAMALI
(c) The native name of a resinous gum that exudes from the ends of young shoots of *Gardenia Lucida*, a rubiaceous shrub of India.

CHORASMIAN WASTE
(b) Matthew Arnold, *Sohrab and Rustum*: "but the majestic River floated on,/ Out of the mist and hum of that low land,/ Into the frosty starlight, and there mov'd,/ Rejoicing, through the hush'd Chorasmian waste,/ Under the solitary moon: he flow'd/ Right for the Polar Star, past Orgunjè,/ Brimming, and bright, and large."

FILACER
(a) A former officer of the superior court at Westminster, who filed original writs and issued processes thereon. Also a corresponding officer of the Irish courts. J. Chamberlayne, 1708: "A list of the Philazers of the court of common pleas with the counties belonging to each respective Philazer."

DRAGEE
(c) A sugar plum or sweetmeat in the centre of which is a drug: intended for the more pleasant administration of medicinal substances. In modern use not restricted to sweetmeats serving as a vehicle for drugs — often a sugared almond. Charlotte Brontë, 1853: He was fond of bonbons and would give his dragees as freely as he lent his books." "Alice wanted to buy him some sweets. I asked if he would like dragees."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rc4! wins, as 1 ... dxc4 runs into 2 Rd8+ Rxd8 3 Qxd8 checkmate

PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE FOR UK ONLY. SEND SAE FOR DETAILS OF OTHER TITLES OR FOR MAIL ORDER CHARGES EX UK

TIMES CROSSWORDS Books 10,11,12,13 £4.50 each. The Times Concise - Book 2 (240 puzzles) £5.99, The Times Two - Book 6 £3.50. The Times Jumbo (Cryptic) - Book 3 £5.99. DICTIONARIES Collins £25, Chambers £25 (both on IBM CD-ROM £29.99). Synonyms and Antonyms £7.99, Crossword Solvers' £11.95, Roget's Thesaurus £6.99 (Pbk £14.99 Hb), Difficult Word £10.99, English Idioms £6.99, Literary Terms £12, Acronyms £9.99. ALSO Crossword Manual £10.99, Crossword Completer £13.99, Grammar and Usage £13.99.

TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette [illegible] Includes Times Crosswords [illegible] The Times Concise [illegible] The Times Two [illegible] — The Times Jubilee Edition [illegible] (Brackets denote number of diskettes)
IBM MS-DOS and Acorn RISC OS £10.25 £14.99 Additional disks £5 each Please specify
NEW Windows version for IBM PCs £15.10 £22.00 £8 each [illegible] VAT

Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 32 The Village, Blackheath London SE3 9SY. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs). No credit cards. Delivery in 5 days.

SAILING

MacArthur slips at the finish

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ELLEN MacARTHUR, of Great Britain, is ninth overall in a 42-strong fleet after the first stage of the Trans-Gascoigne race, but she will be cursing her luck after completing the 320 miles from Port Bourgenay, in France, to Gijón, Spain.

Having recovered from a collision shortly after the start on Sunday, MacArthur had been in fifth position until the last few hours before reaching Gijón. However, thunderstorms and squalls caused a knockdown and a broken spinnaker halyard on her yacht, *Carphone Warehouse — Le Poisson*, dropping her back down the field.

The first leg was won by Tomas Coville, of France. The race continues with a 25-mile sprint to Cudillero on Saturday before returning back to Port Bourgenay the next day.

ATHLETICS

Longden helps Yates run back into favour

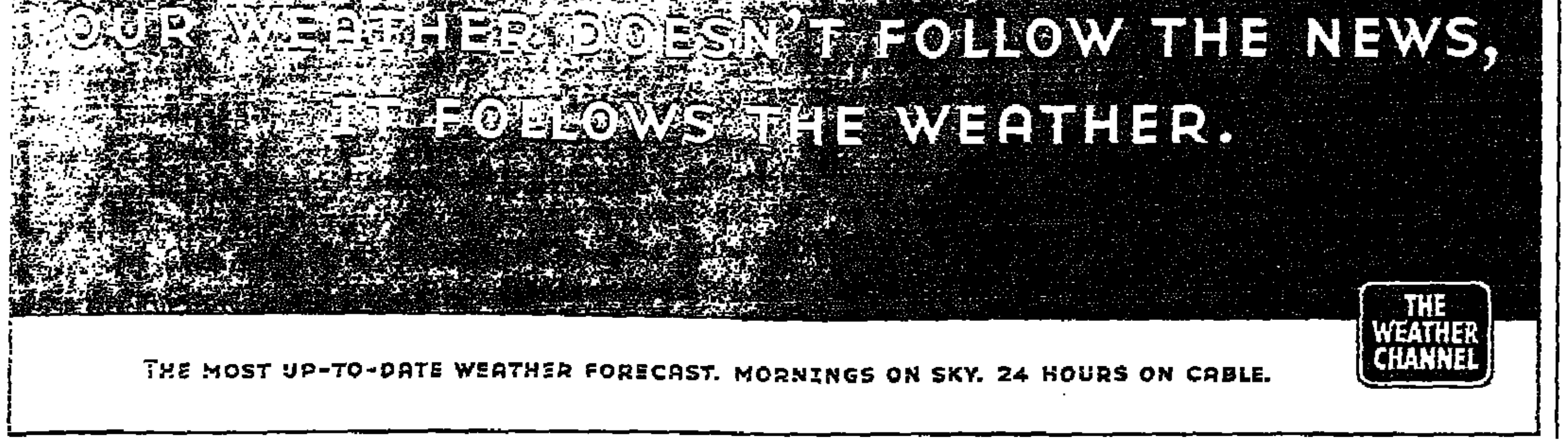
BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOUR years after he last appeared in an international championship, Matthew Yates was restored to the Great Britain team yesterday, delivered there by Bruce Longden, who coached Daley Thompson and Sally Gunnell to Olympic gold medals. Yates, a former European indoor 1,500 metres champion, finished 1996 ranked only No 31 in Britain and, in desperation, turned to Longden, saying: "It is over for me unless Bruce can do it."

Yates's selection for the world championships in Athens, which begin a week on Saturday, represents a triumph for a man recognising his own shortcomings. In an interview with *The Times* last December, Yates admitted to an undisciplined lifestyle. Earning £80,000 a year for three years, Yates earned "nothing, maybe a couple of grand" in 1996. "I was going out and drinking a lot. Now I have got nothing to show for it," Yates said then.

Yesterday, he told how Longden's training programme had helped him to run 3min 36.36sec in Hechtel, Belgium, last weekend, his fastest since 1993. "I owe it to him," Yates said, adding that, under Longden, he had acquired a "new attitude".

Keith Cullen and Adrian Passey were added at 5,000 metres, leaving Ian Gillespie to wonder how he could be omitted from the squad when he defeated Passey in Hechtel last Saturday. The word from the British Athletic Federation was that Passey's victory over Gillespie in the British trial a week earlier had held sway. Paul Walker was added at 800 metres, having achieved the qualifying mark on Tuesday, the deadline day.



TELEVISION CHOICE

An architectural trip

The return of the aliens (BBC2, 9pm)

How Buildings Learn
BBC2 7.30pm

"Building is not something you want to do when you are stoned," says a sardonic contributor to the third part of Stewart Brand's look at how good buildings adapt. He's referring to the glass geodesic dome that was the brainchild of a Californian hippie who had the idea at a Who concert. Thirty years on, it is now a great glasshouse, home to a single lemon tree. The lemon that built it was not available for comment. Brand concentrates on the do-it-yourself aspect of building, proving that those who are involved in every stage of the building's construction have a much healthier home at the end of it. Some examples of the results may make you want to pick up a hammer straight away. But be warned. As Brand says, you may start a building but you will never finish it.

Third Rock from the Sun
BBC2, 9.00pm

The storyline of four aliens masquerading as humans gave up some wonderful opportunities for smart jokes and pokes at the human condition in the first series of this American comedy. The second series still has the excellent cast, headed by John Lithgow, and a crisp script but there is a slight feeling of desperation in the air. This first of a two-parter picks up where the last series ended with Dick's (Lithgow) evil double getting up to all sorts of nefarious deeds while good Dick is locked in an invisible box. The rest of the makeshift family set him free to do battle with the *doppelgänger* before he gets his nasty way with Dr Albright (Jane Curtin). By the way, the one with the green hair is basketball star Dennis Rodman making a cameo appearance. Quibbles apart, it is still good fun.

Hunting Bobby Oatway
Channel 4, 9.00pm

What should be done with society's most reviled pariahs? Bobby Oatway is a convicted paedophile. He raped and brutalised his own son and stepdaughters for which he served ten of a 13-year sentence. In this Canadian documentary, the director John Kastner's starting point is Oatway's release from prison to a half-way house, for a chance to integrate back into society. The stepdaughters, now grown up, are determined that he should not be given that chance. They have set up a well-oiled media machine to ensure that everyone knows exactly who he is and what he has done. They are convinced he will offend again. Oatway is hounded back to prison, but have the sisters won? In three years' time Oatway will be free to walk around completely unsupervised. Anybody who watches Oatway will feel extreme uneasiness at that thought. A balanced and sensitive report on a emotive topic.

This Life
BBC2, 9.45pm

With its original mix of sex, drugs and barristers, this drama serial has been quietly digging its way into the viewing habits of the nation's young. And not so young. Maybe it has something to do with their complicated sex lives. Perhaps it is the way the camera suddenly starts to wobble about for no reason, zooming in on lips and eyes and zooming out again. Whatever it is, the formula seems to work. As every episode has to have a movie pun in the title, this one is called Milly Liar. Unsurprisingly it features the tangled web Milly finds herself weaving to keep her affair with her boss O'Donnell from everyone. It is puzzling though, why someone who can afford to visit a therapist as often as Milly, should choose to live like a cash-strapped student. **Frances Lass**

RADIO CHOICE

Capital Gains
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Julius Hutch, retired billionaire, is a man of letters. So is every other male in Collin Johnson's resumed comedy serial. All the female characters are women of letters. However, it's not just because *Capital Gains* is entirely epistolary in structure that I highly recommend it. It is because it is very funny indeed and intelligently assumes, for instance, that we know who Socrates and Plato were and can recognise that Voltaire was the uncredited inspiration for Hutch's decision to follow Candide's lead and spend his declining years cultivating his own garden. In episode one, Hutch (marvellously played by Peter Jones) becomes a champion of the environment in face of a dastardly plot to destroy it.

Sporting Partnerships
Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm

It takes a professional psychologist to make a statement such as "All sports are lost or won on a six-inch playing field." Even a non-sporting person such as myself knows that Dr David Lewis isn't talking about a miniature world to rival Gulliver's Lilliput. What he is talking about is the space between an athlete's ears — the space containing the brain that's as necessary as the brawn. The featured partnership — almost a father and son one — is that between the rugby union superstar Jonah Lomu, capped by the All Blacks when he was only 19 years old and sensation of the 1995 World Cup, and his manager and mentor, the stand-up comedian and after-dinner speaker Phil Kingsley-Jones. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening **9.00** Simon Mayo **11.30** Radio 1 Roadshow **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Movie Update **8.40** John Peel **10.30** Claire Sturgess **1.00am** Dave Pearce **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Kate Adie **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** David Allan **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** The Deniece Williams Show **9.30** The Jasper Carrott Trial **10.00** Wowfabgroovy **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Sporting Partnerships: Jonah Lomu and Phil Kingsley-Jones. See Choice **8.00** David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Includes a review of the first day of the fourth Test at Headingley **9.00** Inside Edge **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours — *Early Call* **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europe **7.15** World Today **7.30** Meridian Books **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Composer of the Month **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Crossing the Border **9.30** Jools Holland Collection **10.05** Business **10.15** Dying Notes **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Discovery **12.30pm** Learning World **12.45** F.O.O.C. **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain **1.30** Record News **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack **4.05** Sport **4.15** Crossing the Border **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain **6.05** Business **6.15** World Today **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** Assignment **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** John Peel **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain **10.30** Meridian Books **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Vintage Chart Show **1.30** Crossing the Border **1.45** Britain **2.30** The Works **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Concerto. Corelli (Concerto Grosso No 12 in F major, Op 6); Clementi (Piano Concerto in C major) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Thomas Pitfield (Violin Sonata in a major) **8.00** Evening Concert: Rossini (Overture: The Barber of Seville); Sir Paolo Tosti (L'Alba separa dalla luce l'ombra; Aprile; L'Ultima canzone); Mercadante (Flute Concerto in E minor) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Chopin (Scherzo No 2 in B flat minor, Op 31); Tippett (Fantasia on a Theme of Corelli); Verdi (Tacea la Notte, Il Trovatore, Act 4); Monteverdi (Laetatus Sum); Mozart (Serenade in D, K239)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Vivaldi (Concerto in G, RV575); Poulenc (Quatre Petites Prières de Saint François d'Assise); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 4 in G minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood Thomas. Includes Mozart (Der Zauberer, K472); Berlioz (Overture: Béatrice et Bénédict); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in D, Op 102 No 2); Nielsen (Symphony No 1); Schubert (Nachtgesang im Walde); Bartok (Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion); Nava (Notturnino pour Harpe et Flute Harmonique)
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: John Adams
1.00pm News; Wandering Minstrels. The first of a three-part series in which Geoffrey Smith explores the life and work of the great composer/librettist combination Gilbert and Sullivan (r)
2.00 BBC Proms 97. Steven Isserlis, cello, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Tadaaki Otaka. Mendelssohn (Overture: Ruy Blas); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); Bruckner (Symphony No 9 in D minor) (r)
3.55 Fibonacci Sequence. Haydn (Divertimento in C); Bottesini, arr McTier (Capriccio bravura); Michael Berkeley (For the Savage Messiah)
4.40 Poul Ruders. BBC Philharmonic, under Oliver Knussen. Ruders (Capriccio Pian' e Forte) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine. Presented by Verity Sharp. Includes Martin Russ showing how a sequencer can help musicians without the need for traditional composing skills
5.15 In Tune, with Mair Nicolson. Includes Grainger (Green Bushes); Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dance, Op 45 No 1); Gershwin (Variations on I Got Rhythm)
7.30 BBC Proms 97. English Northern Philharmonia, under Paul Daniel. Stravinsky (Petrushka (1947 version) **8.05** Sex and Death in the City of Dreams. Graham Fawcett follows the thread of Erich Korngold's operatic imagination from Vienna to Bruges and Venice **8.25** Concert, part two. Korngold (Violanta, first London performance). With Janice Cairns, soprano, Jonathan Summers, baritone, Jans Aschenbach, tenor, Liane Keegan, mezzo, Elena Ferrari, soprano, Stuart Kale, tenor, Jeffrey Stewart, tenor, Chorus of Opera North
10.00 The Reith Lectures: The War Between the Worlds, by Professor Patricia J. Williams (r)
10.30 Debussy at Dusk. A final selection of songs and piano music performed by Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, piano, Dawn Upshaw, soprano and James Levine, piano
10.45 Trapped in the Present. John Theocharis visits Cairo, the centre of the Arab publishing world, to talk to the novelist Naguib Mahfouz, winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature (r)
11.30 Proms Composer of the Week: Beethoven
12.30am Jazz Notes. More from the concert given by Tim Garland and his quartet at the Appleby Jazz Festival. Introduced by Digby Fairweather
1.00 Through the Night, with David Cornet. Includes **1.00** Choral Evensong, from the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London **2.00** Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, under Okko Kamu. With Anna Larsson, contralto, and Peter Mattei, baritone. Mahler (Des Knaben Wunderhorn); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 5 in E minor)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk chairs a discussion with David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC and Dr David Starkey
10.00 News; Capital Gains (FM). See Choice
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour (FM only until 10.50)
10.50-1.00pm Test Match Special (LW). England v Australia. Coverage of the first day of the Fourth Test at Headingley
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent (FM). News from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours (FM), with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm The Heritage Quiz (FM). Sue MacGregor invites Christopher Cook, Philippa Gregory, Adrian Mourby and Janet Suzman to test their knowledge of Britain's cultural heritage **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (FM) (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
1.40-7.00 Test Match Special (LW). Continued coverage from Headingley
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: The Beauty of Bone (FM), by Bridget Lawless. With Stephanie Cole and Freda Dowie and Denys Hawthorne (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift (FM), with Daire Brehan and guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope (FM). Paul Allen sees Julie Christie at Chichester, in *Suzanna Andler* by Marguerite Duras
4.45 Short Story: The Contraption (FM), by Rhys Davis. Read by Helen Griffin
5.00 PM (FM), with Charlie Lee-Potter and Jon Sopel **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News (FM)
6.30 Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue (FM). A comedy series by Bill Dare, with Robert Duncan and Jan Ravens as Radio 4's antidote to Anne and Nick. In tonight's programme they discuss work and travel
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Lifestory. John Fordham looks back at the career of the clarinet player Benny Goodman with the help of friends and colleagues (6/6)
8.00 Fresh Air. The winners of the Radio 4 feature-making competition for 11 to 15-year-olds. This week: Paul Anderton on the loss of a seaside mansion in Lytham St Anne's (3/5)
8.20 Inside Track: Fingers in the Pie. The third of five programmes about modern life allows us to eavesdrop on a catering company as it prepares to turn an auction house into a 1940s French Riviera hotel in just two hours
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Captain Corelli's Mandolin, by Louis de Bernieres. Abridged by Alison Joseph and read by Robert Powell (14/15)
11.00 The Mark of Zorro. The fourth of a five-part adventure by S.J. Ashford. With Mark Arden, Louise Lombard and Glyn Houston
11.30 Ad Lib (FM). Robert Robinson talks to residents of a Liverpool housing estate (5/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW). A roundup of the day's events in Westminster
12.00 News Includes **12.27am** approx weather
12.30 The Late Book: The White Boy Shuffle, by Paul Beatty. Read by Ray Shell (9/10) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

THURSDAY JULY 24 1997

ROUNDUP

ture is Orange

customers'

ss superstore

lts Bullough

revenue up

rewin Dolphin ahead

hield-Abbott deal

TOURIST RATES

هكذا من الأصل

Feeling, faking and actors' methodology

Watching Lee Strasberg: The Method Man, the latest in BBC2's *Reputations* series, you couldn't help wondering if there weren't any other lessons we non-actors could learn from the man who created screen giants such as Marlon Brando and Paul Newman — apart from the basic Aristotelean rule of never letting Marlon Brando sit on your lap, now that he has the manly build of a chest freezer. If you don't already know the gist of "The Method", let Ellen Burstyn, who studied at Strasberg's Actors' Studio in New York, explain: "What Lee's training was, was to learn how *not* to lie. To *really* tell the truth. How not to act. That's what he taught. How not to pretend. To not act as *though* I feel bad, but to feel bad."

Okay, so many people thought the guy was some kind of nut — and a heartless one, at that, according to Ben Gazzara, who called him "occasionally very kind; too often a bit cruel" — but he did manage to attract (or produce?) some of the world's greatest movie stars: Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson, James Dean, Steve McQueen, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino, Anne Bancroft, Jane Fonda, Harvey Keitel, Eli Wallach, Sally Field, Kenneth Williams, Hattie Jacques. Okay, not Williams and Jacques, but they put into perspective the startling acting calibre of the rest of this list.

Between them, Strasberg's pupils have been nominated for more than 100 Oscars. That's probably why Al Pacino says (now, everybody take five while we dig deep into our past so that we can summon up raw emotion of what it actually *feels* like to listen to what Al has to say... Ready? Okay, let's take it from the top...) That's probably why Pacino says: "I believe that acting as we know it today — in film, American acting — is, and has been, influenced by Lee Strasberg. No doubt about it."

But it's not as straightforward as it sounds. Strasberg felt: "Emotion couldn't be faked, it had to be felt." So what acting methodology would he have advised for the coffee-shop scene in *When Harry Met Sally*, when Meg Ryan fakes an orgasm to prove a point to Billy Crystal? Does she summon up her experience of real orgasm to perform the scene with verisimilitude? Or must she dredge up the raw emotion of an occasion when she *faked* an orgasm to reproduce the effect authentically? And if the latter, would the scene look *more* realistic or *less* realistic than if she had actually tried to relive a true orgasm? No wonder Ryan howled.

In 1955, Strasberg pulled off his greatest coup when Marilyn Monroe, then Hollywood's biggest star, joined his troupe. He became her constant companion;

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

some say a Svengali-type figure who exploited her vulnerability. She even moved into the Strasberg family's apartment. Like many men of the time, Strasberg might well have wanted to experience the raw emotion of having Monroe live under the same roof as him (although not in the same bed) and might have realised that the smartest way of achieving this was to become a famous acting coach. In that sense, there was method in his madness.

Clare Beavan's film was compelling, beautifully put together, and she culled some big stars eager to pay tribute to their late mentor: it was a nice touch to shoot the interviews in Katz's Lower East Side deli in black and white, creating an effect that was two parts *Broadway Danny Rose* and one part *Manhattan*. But we all knew Strasberg was a monster: he was famous for it, so there was no sense of stripping away a walnut veneer to reveal the chipboard man underneath. Could be that *Reputations* is running out of subjects: may be their researchers will strike lucky and find that Himmler ached only to spend his life selling Mr Whippy ice cream to Jewish schoolkids in Berlin, or that Sylvester Stallone has spent his life making profitable movies but really wants to be an actor.

If Al Pacino ever finds himself cast as a nerve transplant surgeon, he'll have no option but to scrub up and spend time in the operating theatre with Susan MacKinnon at Washington University's School of Medicine. The subject of BBC1's **QED**, Dr MacKinnon is the first surgeon to have carried out a successful nerve transplant, reviving once-paralysed limbs by stitching in nerves from a dead donor.

Sadly, Brad Zapalowski, the 16-year-old whose 14-hour operation provides the core of the programme, is one of her operating-table failures: he had severed his left arm in a boating accident. It was a film that made the spirits soar, but the stomach heave — unless you are the type that doesn't get squeamish at the sight of a bowl of spaghetti-style nerve fibres being scalpel-trimmed and sewn into an arm sliced open to receive them. Luckily for fainthearts, the programme went out at 10pm: not so much post-watershed as post-supper.

Surely Oliver James could use a spell at Strasberg's Actors' Studio to bone up on what it is like to interview somebody on television, whether you are a psychiatrist or not. Julian Clary was the latest victim of **The Chair** (BBC2). Once more, James shed as much illumination as a glow-worm in the Albert Hall. He was shocked to hear that Clary had slept with women. "If you actually sleep with a woman, is it the sort of actual body that you're just not turned on by? Is that how it works?" Crikey! He sounded like Eric Idle in Monty Python's "nudge-nudge" sketch.

Clary just looked quietly pitying at James, wondering if maybe he were the first homosexual that James has ever run across. Lord knows, that Anthony Clare can be a big ham. But compared to him, Oliver James is a pork scratching.

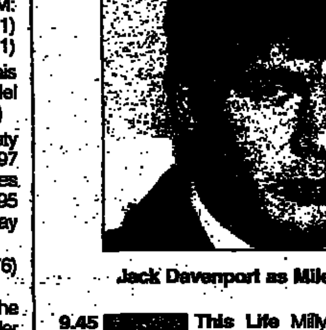
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (97095)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (92453)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (3124434)
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (1548540)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (5227908)
10.30 Gloria's Time Off With Jim Davidson (2937163)
10.45 News (T) Regional News and weather (9814188)
10.50 Cricket: Fourth Test — England v Australia. Tony Lewis introduces ball-by-ball coverage of the first session at Headingley. Continues on BBC2 (31051095)
12.35pm Neighbours Catherine begins to wonder if she will ever get rid of her L-plates (T) (8621786)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (95540)
1.30 Regional News (T) (42206057)
1.40 Cricket: Fourth Test — England v Australia. All the action from the first afternoon at Headingley (60019279)
4.00 Popeye (7667250) **4.10** Dinobabies (4083637) **4.35** Cartoon Critters (8778076)
5.00 Newsround (T) (1814144)
5.10 Byker Grove Sita reveals a long-kept secret (r) (T) (4402057)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (685569)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) (347)
6.30 Regional News (T) (927)
7.00 Watchdog: Value for Money How to transform a kitchen in 48 hours; a look at driving schools; raincoats are put to the test. Plus: Vanessa Feltz's essential shopping guide (T) (9618)
7.30 EastEnders Ian puts an interesting proposition to Pat, while the long arm of the law forces Nigel into a corner. Grant has a romantic encounter which gives him a surprising sense of self-realisation (T) (811)
8.00 Airport Diana, Princess of Wales, tries to slip unnoticed past Heathrow's ever-alert press corps (T) (8368)
8.30 Gotcha Hall of Fame (T) (7873)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) (9453)
9.30 One Foot in the Grave The Meldrew household falls foul of an evil curse. Comedy, starring Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie (r) (T) (42873) **WALES: 9.30** Referendum '97 (590273) **10.10** Smith and Jones (762279) **10.40** The Last Governor (2129705) **11.45** FILM: The Pink Panther Strikes Again (250811) **1.25** News headlines; weather (3733941)
10.00 Smith and Jones Last episode in this series of outlandish comedy from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (T) (36724)
10.30 The Last Governor (4/5) Public anxiety in Hong Kong over how the 1997 handover may affect civil rights forces Governor Chris Patten to call the 1995 elections in an attempt to pave the way for democracy (T) (1564908)
11.35 The Pink Panther Strikes Again (1976) FILM Peter Sellers, as accident-prone Inspector Clouseau, fends off the unwanted attentions of a murder syndicate. Directed by Blake Edwards (T) (722095)
1.15am Weather (3711729)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am O U: Listening in the Dark (7708908) **6.25** Flying in Birds (7787415) **6.50** Natural Navigators (6918569) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (T) (6663724)
7.30 Teletubbies (7782182) **7.55** Brum (6376540) **8.10** Raccoons (6726279) **8.35** Bright Sparks (T) (3110540) **9.05** Spiderman (5309724) **9.35** Glad Rags (2204960)
10.00 The Moomins (7061417) **10.25** Oakie Doke (7428569) **10.40** Spider (6769417) **10.45** Teletubbies (555298) **11.15** The Record (8071366) **11.40** Moon Over Miami (r) (T) (9946502) **12.30pm** For the Love of It (81422415)
12.35 Cricket: Fourth Test England v Australia (8629328)
1.00 A to Z of Food (25835927) **1.10** Beechgrove Garden: the First Season (70357845) **1.40** Blockbusters (59205960) **2.05** The Natural World (r) (T) (5518415) **3.00** News (T) (1758618) **3.05** Westminster with Nick Ross (T) (6606182) **3.55** News (T) (2197908)
4.00 Cricket: Fourth Test Coverage from Headingley (89489076)
6.25 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Sisko is sent back to earth to be acting head of Starfleet security (665502)
7.10 Ren and Stimpy A foreign clown finds a friend in Stimpy (837298)
7.30 CHOICE **How Buildings Learn** Stewart Brand explores how people use buildings (T) (453)
8.00 Wild Harvest with Nick Nairn Nick has a scuba-diving lesson and picks blackberries in preparation for an underwater scallop harvest; picking blackberries; organic beef farming, and meets up with a Highland cattle farmer who uses organic methods (T) (6908) **WALES: 8.00** And Now, Over to Our Friends in Wales **8.30** Homeland at the Royal Welsh Show
8.30 Tracks Spider hunting; weird and wonderful stile climbing; and beach furniture in Somerset (T) (5415)
9.00 CHOICE **Third Rock from the Sun** Award-winning sitcom about four aliens who assume human form and come to live on Earth (1/2) (T) (802908)

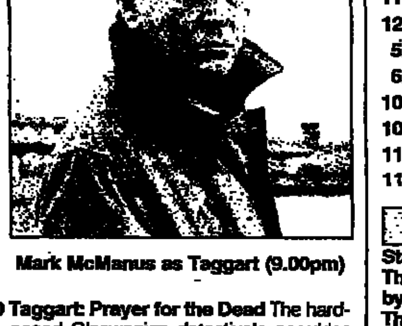


Jack Davenport as Miles (9.45pm)

9.45 CHOICE **This Life** Milly thinks she's come up trumps and Miles is aghast to learn Anna's secret (T) (821569)
10.28 Talking Tale (719347) **10.30** Newsnight (T) (916521) **11.15** Cricket: Highlights (258279) **11.55** Weather (704298) **12.00** Midnight Hour (39835)
12.30am Learning Zone: Fuelling the Philippines Tiger (16496) **1.00** Controlling Carnival Crowds? Crowd behaviour (21564) **2.00** Fun with Kids Essentials (73090) **4.00** Greek Language and People (33632) **5.00** Business and Work (84106)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (3659940) **9.25** Win, Lose or Draw (r) (T) (1549279) **9.55** Judge Judy: See Monday (T) (4252908) **10.20** News (T) (8047705) **10.25** Regional News (T) (8046076)
10.30 Cruel Doubt (1/2) Mini-series based on a true story. A woman is accused of murder when her husband is killed in their bed (94739328)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (8285163)
12.30 ITN News (T) (8640811)
12.55 Shortland Street (8625502)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (37337347)
1.50 Cat Crazy (59212250)
2.20 Contract for Murder (5522618)
3.20 News (T) (1765908) **3.25** Regional News (T) (1764279) **3.30** Potamus Park (r) (4064453) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (1355076) **3.50** Rupert (r) (6940347) **4.15** Transylvania Pet Shop (T) (4077076) **4.40** Reboot (8293908)
5.10 A Country Practice (1468811)
5.40 ITN News (T) (828347)
6.00 Home and Away Chloe finds what she thinks is a new direction in life (r) (T) (802182)
6.25 HTV Weather (158908)
6.30 The West Tonight (845)
7.00 Emmerdale Charlie plucks up the courage to confront Greg (T) (4786)
7.30 3-D Should there be a national registration system for nannies? Julia Somerville introduces a film highlighting flaws in the current system (T) (279)
8.00 The Bill: Mr Friday Night Boyden and Page question a suspect in connection with the disappearance of a girl whose love of the good life has seemingly led her into very bad company (T) (3434)
8.30 Undercover Customs Trevor McDonald narrates the remarkable, true story of how determined Customs officer Lesley Allen smashed a gold-smuggling operation worth millions (T) (2569)



Mark McManus as Taggart (9.00pm)

9.00 Taggart: Prayer for the Dead The hard-nosed Glaswegian detective's enquiries reach a conclusion (r) (T) (8095)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (21892)
10.30 Regional News (T) (307989)
10.40 The West This Week (743502)
11.30 Frieze Frame (T) (248057)
11.45 Hunter (r) (889298)
12.35am The LADS (T) (5769477)
1.10 Funny Business (2055038)
1.40 Planet Rock Profile (4036496)
2.10 Late and Loud (r) (8141767)
3.05 3-D (r) (T) (66227212)
3.35 The Good Sex Guide Late (5039564)
4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (22691019)
5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (T) (74583)
5.30 News (27090)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
10.30am Film: Going in Style (94739328)
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8625502)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1468811)
6.25 Central News (887873)
10.40 Film: Iron Eagle II (57963434)
12.40am Funny Business (8097903)
1.15 Rockmania (285944)
2.15 The Loop (27632)
2.45 God's Gift (6094106)
3.40 Late and Loud (8974941)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
10.30am Film: Going in Style (94739328)
12.55pm Home and Away (9717958)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (83402714)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1468811)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (65724)
10.45 Overdrive (344279)
11.15 Crowded House: Farewell to the World Concert (769724)
12.15am Weekly World News (3284309)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
10.30am Cartoon Time (2948279)
10.40 David the Gnome (3332182)
11.05 Cartoon Time (8055328)
11.25 Bravestarr (8064076)
11.50 Dinosaurs (3253366)
5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (1468811)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (845)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (321569)
10.45 Film: The Killing Mind (13182417)

ANGLIA

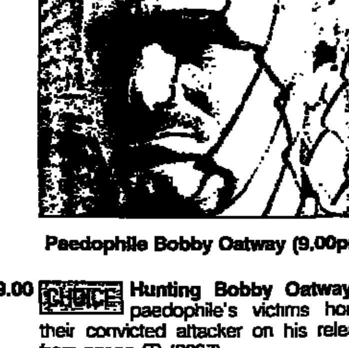
As HTV West except:
10.30am Cartoon Time (2948279)
10.40 David the Gnome (4077705)
11.15 Cartoon Time (7722989)
11.25 Bravestarr (8064076)
11.50 Dinosaurs (3253366)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8625502)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1468811)
6.25 Anglia News (887873)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (321569)
10.45 The Magic and Mystery Show (344279)
11.15 Waterlines (334892)
11.45 New York News (889298)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (80705) **7.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (85415521) **9.05 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (5394892) **9.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (2210521) **10.05 Sister, Sister** (3166601) **10.35 The Crystal Maze** (7964502) **11.35 The Bigger Breakfast** (7067415) **12.00 House to House** (28705) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (55347) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (25811347) **1.15 Wil Cwac Cwac** (25809502) **1.30 Film: It's a Wonderful World** (49335618) **3.05 Travelog Treks** (5497705) **3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (873) **4.00 Bewitched** (908) **4.30 Absolutely Animals** (892) **5.00 5 Pump** (4259863) **5.20 Gogs** (7473328) **5.30 Countdown** (144) **6.00 Newyddion** (894298) **6.05 Heno** (880960) **6.35 Jac yn y Bocs** (165298) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (549521) **7.25 Sgrin Ti Syniad?** (385778) **8.00 Y Sioe Fawr** (1076) **8.30 Newyddion** (3811) **9.00 The Jewel in the Crown** (6637) **10.00 Tour de France** (29434) **10.30 Film: The Missouri Breaks** (77772960) **12.50am Trial and Error** (5844380)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (80705)
7.00 The Bigger Breakfast Incorporates **9.05** Saved By the Bell: The New Class (r) (T) **9.35** The Secret World of Alex Mack **10.05** Sister, Sister (r) **10.35** The Crystal Maze (r) **11.35** The Bigger Breakfast (5274811)
12.00 House to House Political magazine (T) (28705) **12.30pm** My So-Called Life (r) (4639521) **1.25** Making Money. A New Zealand comedy short (25823182)
1.40 Stanley and Livingstone (1939, b/w) FILM Biopic starring Spencer Tracy, Nancy Kelly and Cedric Hardwicke. Directed by Henry King (T) (45425989)
3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Beef and tempura jumble; chicken and tomato roulade; brandy snap baskets (T) (873)
4.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (908) **4.30** Countdown (T) (8762415) **4.55** Ricki Lake (r) (T) (2622298) **5.30** Pet Rescue (r) (T) (144)
6.00 Tour De France Colmar to Montbeliard: a distance of 175km (647)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap. Kurt and Ruth experience difficulties in married life (T) (637)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (440540)
7.50 Deadline 2000 Sally Ann Flemons of Global Action Plan says we must start being responsible about water usage (T) (551304)
8.00 Time Team Archaeological adventure series. The team travel to Cornwall to investigate a 2,000-years-old underground chamber. With Mick Aston and Tony Robinson (1/6) (r) (T) (6873)



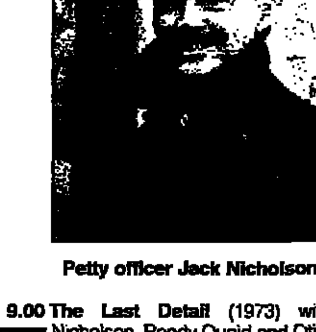
Paedophile Bobby Oatway (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Hunting Bobby Oatway** A paedophile's victims hound their convicted attacker on his release from prison (T) (6637)
10.00 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Improvised comedy show (T) (222434)
10.35 Northern Exposure Alaska-set off-beat comedy. Barbara becomes besotted with with violinist Cal (T) (476328)
11.30 Weekly Planet Jon Snow chairs a discussion on child labour (22415)
1.00-3.35am Midnight Underground Experimental films: **Was She There** A woman disappears in Blackpool (9697800) **1.25 Headcase** A home movie horror (8384496) **1.40 Running Light** Enforced labour and displaced persons (3285632) **1.55 Performing Family** A family reanimates on Hi-8 (2108458) **2.05 Trying to Kiss the Moon** An autobiography spanning 50 years (8123361) **3.05 Extract** The narrator reads a letter from a former lover (96987903) **3.30 The Curtain** How we perceive reality (98886816)
3.55 Citizen 2000 (r) (T) (2025670) **4.35** Geographical Eye (r) (22682361) **5.00** Tour De France (r) (72125) **5.30** Backdate (r) (T) (25632)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (9196960)
7.30 Havakazoo (7939347) **8.00** The Enid Blyton Adventure Series (7829144) **8.30** WideWorld (7828415)
9.00 Espresso (3529705) **10.00** Exclusive! (r) (5508415) **10.30** Instant Gardens (r) (7848279)
11.00 Leeza (6480095) **11.50** Double Espresso (19231453) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (7822231)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (4403989)
1.00 5 News Update (T) (97166665) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (8446076) **2.00** 5's Company (6419231)
3.30 The War Between Us (1995) FILM with Shannon Lawson, Mieko Oucho and Robert Wisden. Drama about a friendship between a Japanese woman and a Canadian in the Second World War. Directed by Anne Wheeler (1945076)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (68569989)
5.30 100 Per Cent The game show without a host (7276569)
6.00 Move on Up Fast-moving game show (T) (7266182)
6.30 Family Affairs Chris tells Duncan that he no longer trusts him (T) (7257434)
7.00 Exclusive! Entertainment news, featuring stories on music, film, television and fashion plus all the latest gossip. With Julia Bradbury (6516873)
7.30 Close Encounters: Man Made for Nature The creation of a new landscape in a valley in Bristol (T) (7253618)
8.00 The Car Show Motoring magazine presented by Mariella Frostrup and Tristram Payne (6525521)
8.30 5 News (T) (6511328)



Petty officer Jack Nicholson (9pm)

9.00 The Last Detail (1973) FILM with Jack Nicholson, Randy Quaid and Otis Young. Comedy-drama about two veteran sailors escorting a colleague to jail. Directed by Hal Ashby (60318724)
10.50 Not the Jack Docherty Show (1053892)
11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H (5538317)
12.35am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine programme featuring football action from both the United States and Brazil (81156651)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Classic American police drama with Michael Douglas and Karl Malden (1768651)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (3500670)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (720873) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (67366) **10.00** Another World (26434) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (46298) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (89328) **1.00pm** Geraldo (98076) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (75366) **3.00** Jenny Jones (98502) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (17637) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (6163) **6.00** Live 6 Show (2453) **6.30** Married with Children (3705) **7.00** The Simpsons (7892) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9989) **8.00** Third Rock from the Sun (6540) **8.30** The Nanny (2347) **9.00** Seinfeld (56291) **9.30** Mad About You (80057) **10.00** Chicago Hope (43640) **11.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (27163) **12.00** Late Show (18941) **1.00am** Hit Mix (8660670)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (9408237) **7.30** Superboy (6255144) **8.00** Unsolved Mysteries (2812183) **9.00** Highlander (2832927) **10.00** Tek War (2802786) **11.00** In the Heat of the Night (6747163) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8029632)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Things Change (1988) (39094163) **7.45** Bedtime Story (1964) (89132873) **9.30** Ernest Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man (1962) (94954521) **11.55** Strangers: The Story of a Mother and Daughter (1979) (29302163) **1.40pm** The Swarm (1978) (25298279) **3.40** Bedtime Story (1964) (654724) **5.25** Things Change (1988) (94289927) **7.00** Problem Child 3 (1995) (23347) **9.00** Loch Ness (1994) (28572144) **10.45** The Movie Show (562453) **11.15** Sutures (1993) (315569) **12.50am** She Fought Alone (1995) (8221309) **2.20** The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds (1972) (169318) **4.00** Cleopatra Jones and the Casino of Gold (1975) (26570)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Morning Glory (1933) (8336873) **7.15** Five Came Back (1939) (2728960) **8.30** Invisible Mom (1995) (51233453) **10.05** Joan of Paris (1942) (51444095) **12.00** Stuart Saves His Family (1995) (25881) **2.00pm** Brigham Young (1940) (32434) **4.00** Invisible Mom (1995) (9637) **6.00** Rolling Thunder (1994) (24571434) **7.40** Top 10 (713279) **8.00** Nowhere to Hide (1996) (24415) **10.00** Candyman (1992) (130705) **11.40** Masseuse (1995) (518989) **1.15am** Lady Killer (1995) (287982) **2.45** Not Like Us (1995) (246090) **4.20** Gulliver's Travels (1983)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Victory at Entebbe (1976) (2248144) **8.00** The Mackintosh Man (1973) (2250989) **10.00** Colors (1988) (85698182) **12.05am** A Nightmare on Elm Street II: Freddy's Revenge (1985) (21832038) **1.30** The Spanish Main (1945) (2105835) **3.10-5.00** Nightmare Alley (1947) (2608019)

TNT

9.00pm Final Verdict (1991) (87664434) **11.00** Lady L (1965) (84084144) **12.50am** Brass Target (1978) (82053038) **2.45-5.00** Final Verdict (1991) (97834903)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (8843569) **7.15** Get Fit for Football (8951908) **7.30** Wrestling (19908) **8.30** Racing News (76988) **9.00** Sports Centre (6026786) **9.15** Get Fit for Football (1088811) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (96231) **10.00** European Tour Magazine (45811) **10.30** Golf: Dutch Open — Live (62502) **12.30pm** Golf: Senior British Open — Live (86453) **2.30** Golf: Dutch Open — Live (413786) **3.00** Golf: Senior British Open — Live (4547) **6.00** Sports Centre (973279) **6.15** Get Fit for Football (961434) **6.30** Powerboat and Jetski World (1989) **7.00** Formula Three (82453) **8.00** Cricket: Fourth Test (79989) **10.00** Sports Centre (460434) **10.15** Get Fit for Football (465986) **10.30** Big Shots (51076) **11.30** Golf: Dutch Open (84057) **1.30am** Powerboat and Jetski World (80767) **2.00** Sports Centre (2672941) **2.15-2.30** Get Fit for Football (2677496)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00pm Tight Lines (8937163) **6.00** World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (9096182) **10.30** Gaelic Games (5593892) **11.30-1.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (5536618)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Full Throttle (12110279) **12.30pm** Big Shots (50721163) **1.30** World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (79405453) **3.30** Boxing: Ldes v Bellogou (12655908) **5.00** Wrestling (52658540) **6.00** Inside the PGA Tour (19172298) **6.30** Greatest Moments in Sport (19156250) **7.00** Calgary Stampede (46947989) **9.00** Golf: Greater Hartford Open — Live (87666892) **11.00-11.30** Full Throttle (60456502)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motors (19798) **8.30** Motorcycling (61057) **9.00** Tour De France (62368) **10.00** Offroad (86076) **11.00** Karting (79540) **12.00** Live Tennis (21415) **2.00pm** Tour De France (430453) **4.30** Live Tennis (63076) **6.00** Sumo (93714) **7.00** Aerobics (77521) **8.00** Boxing (93569) **9.00** Tour De France (63328) **11.00** Sailing (58908) **11.30-12.30am** Football (55705)

UK GOLD

7.00am Animal Magic (6261637) **7.35** Neighbours (5784415) **8.00** Crossroads (8875665) **8.25** EastEnders (7298347) **9.00** The Bill (4046144) **9.30** Shelley (8580057) **10.00** Tellystack (1702163) **10.30** The Sullivans (4042328) **11.00** Bergerac (49874724) **12.05pm** Crossroads (61391279) **12.30** Neighbours (8584873) **1.00** EastEnders (5232908) **1.35** No Place Like Home (5000873) **2.15** The Liver Birds (2621724) **2.50** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (9390751) **3.30** The Bill (9614144) **4.00** Boon (1441231) **5.00** Casualty (66504279) **6.05** EastEnders (8809076) **6.40** Brush Strokes (7787366) **7.20** Dr Who: The Brain of Morbius (5810144) **7.50** George and Mildred (9194861) **8.20** Hi-De-Hi (8874279) **9.00** The Bill (1447415) **9.30** Chancer (20107106) **10.35** Naked Video (2637328) **11.15** Live at Jongleurs (3337647) **11.45** Gold Goes Pop (1960415) **12.30am** It's a Knockout (33221106) **1.40** Big Deal (4890903) **2.35** Shopping (41216372)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (1985231) **7.00** Coronation St (2881665) **7.30** Families (3335750) **8.00** Surprise! Surprise! (4609989) **9.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (5446569) **10.00** Gentle Touch (7936714) **11.00** London's Burning (3538958) **12.00** Coronation St (4749250) **12.30pm** Families (4165291) **1.00** Two's Company (3231106) **1.30** The Beautiful Home Show (5515732) **2.00** Surprise! Surprise! (9638298) **3.00** Gentle Touch (5459250) **4.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (5445057) **5.00** London's Burning (1340279) **6.00** Families (6221095) **6.30** Coronation St (6212347) **7.00** Gentle Touch (1199502) **8.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (1108250) **9.00** Coronation St (5474569) **9.30** The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club (4060647) **10.00-11.00** London's Burning (1198873)

Joely Richardson and Ted Danson in *Loch Ness* (Sky Movies, 9pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus (36434) **6.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (71415) **7.30** Little Mermaid (7974540) **7.55** Timon and Pumbaa (6841366) **8.10** Goof Troop (4214811) **9.00** Tale Spin (6502057) **9.25** Aladdin (6433540) **10.15** Quack Pack (3732811) **11.00** Boy Meets World (5988076) **11.25** The Wonder Years (7402160) **11.50** Timon and Pumbaa (4257347) **12.05pm** Bonkers (1795415) **12.30** Microscopic Milton (38395368) **12.35** Big Garage (35639705) **12.50** Sing Me a Story (6795705) **1.15** Madison's Adventure Growing Up Wild (53197569) **1.40** Adventures in Wonderland (21576786) **2.05** Small Stories (85652927) **2.10** Lamb Chop's Play-Along (32395250) **2.40** Care Bears (7762434) **3.00** Little Mermaid (4626705) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (6025618) **3.40** Tale Spin (4551453) **4.05** Chooseday (9786) **5.00** Aladdin (4358347) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (5631231) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (546231) **6.00** Flash Forward (6809) **6.30** Boy Meets World (4231) **7.00** Thunder Alley (5618) **7.30** FILM: Three Men and a Baby (95704347) **9.05** Dave's World (784231) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (43163)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dotty and His Friends (5809705) **6.30** Pinocchio (6847724) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6739415) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (6740250) **8.00** Casper (8541989) **8.30** Power Rangers Zeo (8533960) **9.00** Masked Rider (8557540) **9.30** Beetleborgs (9580618) **10.00** Spiderman (6746434) **11.00** X Men (6669618) **11.30** Phantom 2040 (6560347) **12.00** The Tick (8544076) **12.30pm** Life with Louie (9584434) **1.00** Casper (6737786) **1.30** Eek! (9583705) **2.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (7503601) **2.30** Hero Turtles (5274279) **3.00** Casper (4553398) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (5279724) **4.00** Masked Rider (5258231) **4.30** Beetleborgs (5254415) **5.00** Spiderman (3050038) **6.00** X Men (5275905) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps (5259960)

TCC

6.00am Iznogoud (49908) **6.30** Dangermouse (60927) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (68057) **7.30** Where's Wally (70892) **8.00** Batman (11124) **8.30** Art Attack (16927) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (32057) **10.00** Gravedale High (51279) **10.30** Flash Gordon (25279) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (84347) **11.30** Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (85076) **12.00** Gravedale High (61601) **12.30pm** Stunt Dawgs (36873) **1.00** Batman (67328) **1.30** Dangermouse (35144) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (7076) **2.30** Flash Gordon (5724) **3.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (9811) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (7569) **4.00** Dennis the Menace (6076) **4.30-5.00** Art Attack (5960)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (94434) **6.30** Wil Quack Quack/Little Bear Stories/Bananas in Pyjamas/Victor and Maria (23873) **7.00** Babar (54231) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (73368) **8.00** Jumanji (68960) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (67231) **9.00** Rugrats (81811) **9.30** Rugrats (94873) **10.00** Doug (47453) **10.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (87095) **11.00** Rocko (39873) **11.30** Ren and Stimpy (30502) **12.00** Pete and Pete (78347) **12.30pm** Clarissa Explains it All (43219) **1.00** Alex Mack (53502) **1.30** Round the Twist (97960) **2.00** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (2502) **2.30** Littlest Pet Shop (9750) **3.00** Stickin' Around (1637) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (2095) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (1502) **4.30** Rugrats (7786) **5.00** Sister Sister (6182) **5.30** Sister Sister (1366) **6.00** Moesha (6279) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (2231)

TROUBLE

12.00 Byker Grove (4051076) **12.30pm** Ready or Not (8519569) **1.00** Madison (9216927) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (8501540) **2.00** Swan's Crossing (2502231) **2.30** No Naked Flames (9637095) **3.00** Byker Grove (2521366) **3.30** Hangtime (9632540) **4.00** California Dreams (9628347) **4.30** Saved by the Bell (9617231) **5.00** Sweet Valley High (2526811) **5.30** Ready or Not (9631811) **6.00** Hangtime (9638724) **6.30** Madison (9629076) **7.00** Saved by the Bell (2513347) **7.30-8.00** California Dreams (9618960)

BRAVO

8.00pm RoboCop (6136873) **9.00** LA Heat (6158637) **10.00** Tour of Duty (6159724) **11.00 FILM: Meet the Feebles** (7561521) **1.00am** LA Heat (4045632) **2.00** Tour of Duty (5409309) **3.00 FILM: Terror Train** (8604729) **5.00** RoboCop (8541767)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (3618) **7.30** Family Ties (8415) **8.00** E UK (2366) **8.30** Wings (1873) **9.00** Cheers (59637) **9.30** Dr Katz (18453) **10.00** Nurses (79076) **10.30** Garry Shandling (88724) **11.00** We Know Where You Live (54182) **11.30** Vacant Lot (43637) **12.00** Soap (15293) **12.30am** Laverne and Shirley (76816) **1.00** Cheers (32632) **1.30** Dr Katz (86309) **2.00** E UK (31926) **2.30** We Know Where You Live (12941) **3.00** Nurses (52496) **3.30-4.00** Wings (81403)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Twilight Zone (8212038) **1.30** One Step Beyond (8470372) **2.00** Friday the 13th (9284729) **3.00-4.00** Dark Shadows (8279854)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4044786) **9.30** Garden Calendar (8511927) **10.00** Garden Club (1700705) **10.30** Craftwise (4073298) **11.00** Room for Improvement (1458521) **11.30** Graham Kerr (1459250) **12.00** Julia Child (4057250) **12.30pm** Hometime (8582415) **1.00** This Old House (9289873) **1.30** New Yankee Workshop (8581786) **2.00** The House (2615705) **2.30** Doing It Up (9640569) **3.00** Doing It Up (2527540) **3.30-4.00** Doing It Up (9612786)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Extremists (9624521) **4.30** Ambulance! (9620705) **5.00** Connections 2 (2506057) **5.30** Jurassica (9611057) **6.00** Savannah Watch (8590434) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (2519521) **7.30** The Battle of Actium (9621434) **8.00** How They Built the Channel Tunnel (6149347) **9.00** Flightline (1445057) **9.30** Androids (8502279) **10.00** New Detectives (6162298) **11.00** The Professionals (9299250) **12.00** The Extremists (1728361) **12.30am** Ambulance! (9912309) **1.00** The Battle of Actium (4094380) **1.30-2.00** Connections 2 (7521903)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten (9006569) **5.00** Driving Passions (6589618) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (9574163) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Natalie Wood (8928415)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Cross Wits (7416908) **5.50** Family Fortunes (554250) **6.30** Catchphrase (484960) **7.05** Winner Takes All (379724) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (516328) **8.20** All Clued Up (409724) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (798434) **9.35** Sale of the Century (683163) **10.10** Treasure Hunt (140231) **11.20** Studs (673569) **12.00** Winner Takes All (60767) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (22854) **1.30** Sweet Justice (54699) **2.30** African Skies (34187) **3.00** My Two Dads (76090) **3.30** Big Brother Jake (58767) **4.00** The Fall Guy (64564) **5.00** Shopping (87800)

UK LIVING

7.00am Tiny Living (36012347) **9.05** A Woman Called Smith (4167908) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (3470873) **10.05** Jerry Springer (3457637) **11.00** Young and Restless (3615892) **11.50** Brookside (9388298) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70926908) **12.55** Tempesti (4479540) **1.40** Rolonda (2999057) **2.30** Agony Experience (5454279) **3.00** Live at Three (90931960) **4.05** Jerry Springer (6221347) **5.05** Lingo (57100366) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (5458095) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (7189144) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (2288453) **7.05** Hearts Afire (7432892) **7.35** Brookside (1016818) **8.05** Rolonda (9367415) **9.00** FILM: A Bunny's Tale (2240502) **11.00-12.00** Sex Files (9075786)

ZEE TV

7.00am Live Asia Cup Cricket **4.00pm** ZEE Zone Presents **4.05** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Dada Dadi Ki Kahani **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry **6.25** Ek Nazar **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Your Zindagi **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Andaz **9.05** Jaal **9.30** Hasretain **10.00** ZEE Presents **10.30** Yaadon Ki Baraat **11.00** Mano Ya Na Mano **11.30-12.00** Antakshari

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RACING 43
Crowd sizes to be restricted for Cheltenham Festival

SPORT

TENNIS 46
Devon's boys' brigade playing hard and fast in Eastbourne

Pivotal contest at Headingley may decide destiny of finely-balanced Ashes series

England await moment of truth

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE preparations could not have gone better. The reconfirmed team has spent three full days together. the pitch has been hand-picked and the Australians are being self-righteous. All that is left is the small matter of winning. For England, it is a case of now or never.

By the precedents of recent series, it is a minor triumph for England to stand level with Australia three games into the summer. It will mean next to nothing if they are behind by next Monday, for then there will probably be no way back, but if the fourth Cornhill Test can be won, the Ashes should follow.

After Edgbaston, and that long-ago euphoria, Headingley could always be identified as England's best chance of earning another win. There is something about the place, something that will be oddly missed if Yorkshire resist the efforts of the ground's owners to keep them there and uproot to Wakefield. By way of a start, conditions promise a positive result. By way of a warning, Australia need not be on the wrong end of it.

Clearly, they are piqued. Yesterday, Mark Taylor, the captain, expanded on his censure of the late change of pitch and gave his view that the new surface, agreed upon only last Friday, is "underprepared". He ventured no opinion on how it would behave, on the contrary suggesting that he did not have the first idea.

Taylor's disapproval is being echoed by Alan Crompton, the tour manager, who yesterday sought a meeting with David Graveney, the chairman of the England selectors. It was Graveney who endorsed the change, but only after receiving a phone call last Wednesday, while on holiday in Spain, from Harry Brind, the inspector of pitches.

The anxiety of Brind — who fussed proprietorially over the new pitch throughout yesterday — is easy to understand and so, in a sense, is the dismay of the touring team. The Australians, however, must beware of portraying cant and sanctimony on the issue. Englishmen with long memories have a list of occasions on which Australian pitches seemed somewhat less than even-handed.

Wise old head that he is, Taylor will be fully aware that the change was made primarily through fears over the influence of Shane Warne. Equally, having studied the neighbouring pitches on this most controversial of squares, he should concede that the England authorities were entitled to be alarmed over the look of the original.

It is a startling sight, too dry for comfort and remarkably bare at the ends. Warne would doubtless have relished it, but the match might not have lasted three days. Defeat in such circumstances would have constituted a spectacular own goal, one for which the England management would rightly have been castigated.

For many years past, England have been accused of inertia on such matters, of failing to exercise vigilance over their home pitches and of frequently handing the opposition their preferred conditions. To criticise the pro-active stance of the present management, then, would be extreme hypocrisy.

Disingenuous though it may sound, the claim that the switch was made to achieve a better surface gains credence once the pitches are inspected together. The new pitch is more evenly grassed and will be cut again this morning. England's intention is to show their faith in it by batting first.

This may change if the weather turns. There is talk of low cloud and possibly rain over Leeds this morning and the temptation to bowl first would then be severe. Michael Atherton, while dismissing the great pitch debate as "a lot of nonsense", did agree yesterday that overcast mornings at Headingley invariably mean the ball will swing and seam.

Covers remained on the pitch in bright sunshine yesterday, retaining its degree of moisture. Taylor furrowed his brow and said it was a shade soft, that the soil looked different here and that if he won the toss he would be uncertain what to do.

Australia have at least settled on their team, Ponting for Bevan at No 6 being the one change from Old Trafford. England's final place remains open. Atherton was willing to discount the option of an all-seam attack — a mistake made both in 1993, when Australia were last here, and last summer — but there is a strong chance that Mike Smith will make his debut ahead of either Dean Headley or Andy Caddick.

Headley, whose fitness is a recurring worry, had a second long bowl yesterday and any overnight reaction would discount him. Otherwise, the choice comes down to keeping faith with a man in possession, with 11 wickets in the series to date, or including a swing bowler who ought to be suited to this ground better than any in the country.

If Smith, of Gloucestershire, never plays another Test, he should be chosen this morning. Short in stature, mild in manner, studious in his steel-rimmed spectacles, he is not the archetypal fast bowler but he bridles at suggestions that he is too short, too slow or simply too nice. "I've got enough pace to be taken seriously," he said. "I've hit a few with my bouncer."

His great asset, however, is the late swing that consistently dismisses top-order players. It is in his favour that both Australia openers are left-handers, to whom he naturally swings the ball away, but the number of right-handers he dismisses either bowled or leg-before is testimony to his accuracy. "Like all Yorkshiremen, I am tight," he said. "I hate giving runs away."

Smith's family, who live in Batley, will be at Headingley in force today, swelling the crowd to virtual capacity. Friday and Saturday are both sold out. The public, plainly, has not lost faith in England, even if the bookmakers, who price them as the 100-30 outsiders, appear to have done.

"We gave a poor performance at Old Trafford," Atherton said bluntly. "We contributed to our own downfall there. But one poor performance need not bring panic changes and the selectors sent a clear, strong message to that effect. Now it's up to us. Effectively, this is nowa three-Test series and no side wants to lose the first of three."

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (capt), M A Butcher, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, M A Ealham, R D B Croft, D Gough, A M Smith, D W Headley, A R Caddick.

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor (capt), M T G Elliott, G S Blewett, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, R T Ponting, I A Healy, S K Warne, P R Reiffel, J N Gillespie, G D McGrath.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and C J Mitchley
Third umpire: R Julian
Match referee: C M Smith (West Indies)

Coverage: Television: BBC1: Live 10.50am-12.35; 1.40-4.00. Highlights: 11.15-11.55. BBC2: Live 12.35-1.00; 4.00-6.25. Radio: BBC Radio 4 (LW): Live 10.50am-1.00; 1.40-7.00

Ponting's chance 44
Edgbaston lit up 44
McCague's blast 45

Graham Gooch, minus his trademark moustache, acknowledges the applause at Chelmsford. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

Gooch's last stand must wait

FEW cricketers announce the match of their retirement (Jack Bailey writes). Even fewer reach 44 before they call it a day. Graham Gooch did just that when he decided last weekend to bow out at the end of the game against Worcestershire which began at Chelmsford yesterday — his 44th birthday.

The crowd of nearly 4,000 gave Gooch a standing ovation at the start of play. Bareheaded — and clean-shaven — he waved in acknowledgment as he took the field at the head of the Essex team (he surrendered the captaincy to Paul Prichard three seasons ago).

There was a measure of disappointment for those who came to see Gooch in his 391st first-class match in that Worcestershire were batting. Altogether, 8,699 of the 44,830 runs he had scored before this match had been gathered here, as had 29 of his 128 centuries, including his highest score for Essex, 275. One more hundred would put him alongside Len Hutton. Gooch has scored more Test runs, 8,900, than any other Englishman and played a leading part in six championship victories for Essex.

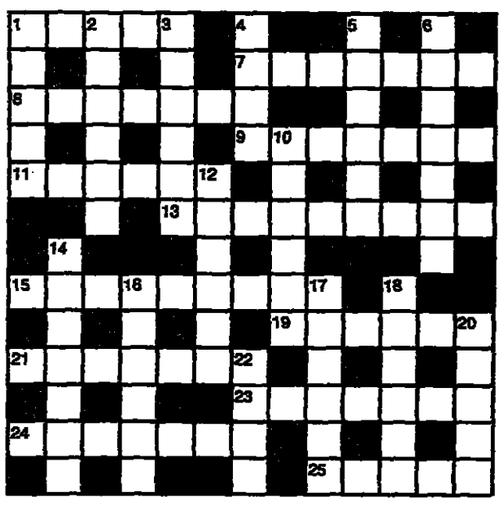
At the end of the day, Gooch was far from his usual phlegmatic self. He fought hard, unsuccessfully, to stifle the emotion in his voice as he said: "My father, Alf, who passed away in December, wanted me to play one last season. I'm just a bit sad, if he's watching from up there, that it has not been as good a season as it could have been for him.

"He was my biggest supporter. He came to all my games. I miss him a lot."

Essex frustrated, page 45

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1154 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Impress; character (5)
7 Integrated; chemical-free (farming) (7)
8 Affect harmfully (7)
9 "This blessed plot, ... this —" (*R. II*) (7)
11 Ploughed row (6)
13 US state; sounds like *fresh pullover* (3,6)
15 One of similar appearance (9)
19 Surviving (6)
21 Nervous shaking (7)
23 Betrayal of country (7)
24 Brief (7)
25 Plainest Gk. order (5)

DOWN
1 Join (timber); neckwear (5)
2 Provide (6)
3 Venom (6)
4 Speck of dust (4)
5 Wanness (6)
6 Trail blazer (7)
10 A serious matter (2,4)
12 Sam —, Pickwick's servant (6)
14 Keep eye on (7)
16 Tasteless, sentimental art (6)
17 Break (limit) (6)
18 Roman emperor's title (6)
20 Pick-me-up (5)
22 Check; stalk (4)

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe and has now added daily flights from Heathrow to Copenhagen, Oslo, Gothenburg, Cologne and Rome. With over 1,500 flights a week to 20 European destinations British Midland is the Airline for Europe.

All flights are subject to availability

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

SOLUTION TO NO 1153
ACROSS: 1 Cachet 5 Calf 9 Catcall 10 Asthma 11 Teetotal 12 Orgies 15 Waffle 18 Cucumber 20 Bandit 22 Ambient 23 Seek 24 Nestle
DOWN: 2 Archer 3 Hit it off 4 Toast 6 Aunt 7 Flambé 8 Slalom 13 Gormless 14 Nectar 16 Abacus 17 Lentil 19 Cuban 21 Dupe

World Cup bid gets £9m boost

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A RECORD £9 million is being raised to promote England football's attempt to stage the 2006 World Cup finals, the highest figure ever spent in trying to bring an international sports event to Britain.

With England facing a fierce battle with Germany, who are still upset that there will be a rival European candidate for 2006, the Government is providing support from the Foreign Office, while the Prime Minister is ready to meet foreign officials when they visit London.

The Football Association has already committed £3 million and is expected to be matched with £3 million from the FA Premier League and a further £3 million from lottery funding. Alec McGivan, director of the World Cup campaign, said yesterday: "I am not anticipating any problems over funding."

The Government does not yet have direct control of lottery funding, although its lawyers are examining whether this may be possible. For the moment, the lottery money for bringing leading events to this country is controlled by the English Sports Council, but the Government wants lottery money spent on the bid to stage the cup here for the first time since 1966.

The £9 million will exceed by more than £4 million the figure spent by Manchester in its unsuccessful attempt to host the 2000 Olympic Games. The money will be used for items such as videos and films, exhibitions at leading sports events and entertaining members of the executive committee of Fifa, football's governing body, who will decide on the venue in June 2000.

The FA is already discussing support with leading companies, such as British Airways. "However, we will not let it get out of hand as the Japanese and South Koreans did." The Asian countries are co-hosting the 2002 Cup.

McGivan said that the Government could play significant roles by giving leadership to the bid, providing hospitality and international networking, using its influence on lottery funds and giving support to the staging of the event.

He said: "The new Government is extremely enthusiastic about our candidature. Both Tony Blair and Tony Banks [the Minister for Sport] are football followers. What we must do is to make the bid unique, to make it something to excite people."

The Government is also looking at the staging of the 2008 Olympic Games in London. It is examining whether the Greenwich site, earmarked for the millennium celebrations, might not also be used for some Olympic venues, in addition to the Wembley complex, with its planned new national stadium.

Liverpool talk to German forward

BY DAVID MADDOCK

LIVERPOOL appear likely to plunge back into the transfer market within the next few days to secure the services of an experienced forward, after the capture this week of Paul Ince. Roy Evans, the manager, is at an advanced stage of negotiations with Karl Heinz Riedle, the Germany forward, whose two goals won the European Cup for Borussia Dortmund in May.

Evans is keen to secure a forward partner for Robbie Fowler and Riedle fits the bill, even though he will be 32 in September. He has just enjoyed possibly the best season of his career and has experienced an international renaissance. Riedle will cost Liverpool a fee of just £1.5 million, but it is understood his salary will be more than £1 million a year for the length of a three-year contract.

However, Riedle also has had talks with Sampdoria and AS Roma and may be persuaded to return to Italy, the country where he had a less-than-happy experience with Lazio, Paul Gascoigne's former club.

Evans hopes to move swiftly to head off any further Italian interest and the transfer could be completed by the weekend. If not, however, he is still pursuing two other possible targets a little closer to home. Earlier this week, Evans inquired about Egil Ostenstad, the Southampton forward, who was the subject of a £4 million offer from Newcastle United on Tuesday. Liverpool also are pursuing an interest in Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward.

Another forward will also shortly be on the move. A board meeting at Newcastle on Tuesday evening agreed that Les Ferdinand, the club's England international, should be allowed to leave if an offer of £6 million were forthcoming. Everton have indicated their interest at that level, but Tottenham Hotspur are still favourites to sign the London-born player.

One deal unlikely to go ahead is the move to Crystal Palace of Attilio Lombardo, the Juventus and Italy winger. He declined to fly to London for planned talks yesterday and Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, admitted that the transfer looked doubtful. "I don't think it is likely. I don't think we can afford the whole package," he said. Palace are likely to sign Paul Warhurst, of Blackburn, today.

Newcastle will use some of the money they receive for Ferdinand to pay for the transfer of Alessandro Pistone, the Internazionale left back. The 22-year-old will fly to the North East for talks tomorrow and Freddie Fletcher, the Newcastle chief executive, said: "We will discuss the terms on which the player wants to come here."

Sorry BT
international calls are upto 63% cheaper
with RSL GLOBAL PHONE

Lowest Prices Available

One minute international call to	RSL Global Phone	B.T.	Save
AUSTRALIA	21.15	49.00	57%
BANGLADESH	82.25	133.25	38%
CANADA	14.10	23.62	40%
FRANCE	18.80	28.42	34%
GHANA	61.10	131.19	53%
HONG KONG	34.08	68.78	50%
INDIA	64.63	119.85	46%
ISRAEL	44.65	79.45	44%
JAPAN	28.20	76.99	63%
MALAYSIA	44.65	108.10	59%
NEW ZEALAND	25.85	49.00	47%
PAKISTAN	76.38	133.25	43%
RUSSIA	47.00	79.45	41%
SINGAPORE	32.90	68.78	52%
SOUTH AFRICA	44.65	101.66	56%
THAILAND	63.45	108.10	41%
UAE	58.75	101.66	42%
USA	11.75	23.62	50%

All Prices Include VAT

It doesn't cost much to stay in touch.

RSL GLOBAL PHONE
0800 074 0800
ext 0022